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Proceedings of the 2010 AFMS Medical Research Symposium Volume 4. Heathcare Informatics Track Abstracts and Presentations



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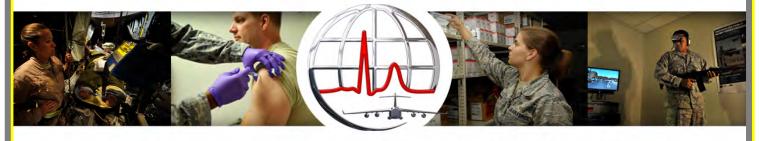


2011 AFMS MEDICAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

2-4 AUGUST 2011

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Proceedings of the 2011 AFMS Medical Research Symposium Volume 4. Healthcare Informatics Track Abstracts and Presentations

Edited by: Major Walter Cato



Held
2-4 August 2011
at the
Gaylord National Resort Hotel and Convention Center
201 Waterfront Street
National Harbor, MD 20745



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Proceedings of the 2011 AFMS Medical Research Symposium Introduction

The U.S. Air Force Medical Service presented the sixth annual Air Force Medical Research Symposium coordinated by the Air Force Medical Support Agency's Research and Development Division (AFMSA/SGRS). The symposium was held on 2-4 August 2011 in the Washington DC area at the Gaylord National Resort Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. The symposium featured two half-days of plenary sessions, one and a half days of scientific presentations, and a poster session.

The symposium was organized into several tracks to include Enroute Care, Force Health Protection, Healthcare Informatics, Operational Medicine (In-Garrison Care), and Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury, as follows:

- The Enroute Care Track addressed science and technology targeted at the continuum of care during transport from point of injury to definitive care including, but not limited to: Casevac, Medivac; Aeromedical Evacuation; Critical Care Air Transport; and Patient Staging. Further areas addressed included: patient stabilization; patient preparation for movement; impact of in-transit environment on patient and AE crew physiology; human factors concerns for AE crew or patient population; AE/medical personnel training; infectious disease/control; burn management; pain management; resuscitation; lifesaving interventions; and nutrition research in the enroute care environment.
- The Force Health Protection Track focused on prevention of injury and illness and the early recognition or detection of emerging threats for in-garrison or deployed operations. Topics of interest include research in bio-surveillance, infectious disease, emerging threats (pandemic response), protective countermeasures, disaster response/consequence management, toxicology/health risks (e.g., particulates nanomaterials, radiation, etc.), monitoring disease trends, other areas of preventive medicine, public and environmental health relevant to the military workforce.
- The Healthcare Informatics Track focused on the use of innovative information management & technology solutions that enhance healthcare delivery at any point of the full spectrum of patient care to include medical simulation and training.
- The Operational Medicine (In-Garrison Care) Track focused on care delivered in the outpatient or inpatient ingarrison setting and on enhancing the performance of airman in challenging operational and expeditionary environments.
- The Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Track addressed topics pertaining to screening, diagnosis, and treatment of TBI and/or Psychological Health in the military community. Specific focus areas within Psychological Health included depression, substance use disorders, family functioning, and suicide prevention. Topics of special interest included field-deployable diagnostic tests for mild TBI (concussion), blast modeling, large epidemiologic studies of Psychological Health and TBI, and strategies for translating research into practice.

These proceedings are organized into five volumes, as follows:

- Volume 1. This volume is a general overview of the entire 2011 Air Force Medical Research Symposium and includes abstracts of all the oral presentations and posters. First presented is the symposium's opening plenary session, followed by the abstracts from the four technical tracks, and then the closing plenary session. The abstracts associated with the poster session are in the last section of these proceedings. The agenda for the overall symposium is in Appendix A, attendees are listed in Appendix B, and continuing education information is in Appendix C of this volume. Appendices D-J are copies of presentation slides from the plenary sessions.
- Volume 2. This volume contains abstracts and presentation slides for the Enroute Care Track.
- Volume 3. This volume contains abstracts and presentation slides for the Force Health Protection Track.
- Volume 4. This volume contains abstracts and presentation slides for the Healthcare Informatics Track.
- Volume 5. This volume contains abstracts and presentation slides for the Operational Medicine (In-Garrison Care)
- Volume 6. This volume contains abstracts and presentation slides for the Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Track.

Patient-Centered Precision Care (PC2)

Dr. Ronald Miller, SG9Z, Air Force Medical Support Agency

The Air Force Patient-Centered Precision Care (PC2Z) Program has been established to guide the use of genomic information in clinical decision-making as the field of personalized medicine advances and medical evidence accumulates. Recent advances in genomic technology have suggested that analyses of a patient's genome can provide information on an individual's health, identifying a patient's response to medication or a person's risk of developing disease relative to the average population. In order to fully realize the potential of genomic medicine, further work must be done to demonstrate its clinical utility and to establish an effective infrastructure for the integration of genomics into clinical care. To achieve these goals, the PC2Z Program is composed of four major pillars:

- 1. Policy: to identify and address the ethical, legal, and social issues associated with the utilization of genomic information in clinic.
- 2. Research: to longitudinally assess the clinical utility of the genomic information in the delivery of health care. Additionally, de-identified genomic information will be provided to the government and academic partners for use in additional genetic studies aimed at discovering novel disease-gene associations.
- 3. Informatics: to evaluate methods for the storage, protection, and integration of genomic information into the existing electronic healthcare records.
- 4. Education: to provide educational resources for medical staff and patients on interpretation and benefits of genomic information in the delivery of health care.

Through the PC2Z program, genomic data will become a valuable resource, informing the efficient and targeted delivery of health care to patients in the future.

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

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AFMS Patient-Centered Precision Care (PC²Z)

Genomic Medicine Research



Chris Bradburne, PhD and Ruth Vogel, MPH
The Johns Hopkins University,
Applied Physics Laboratory
Major Heather Halvorson, MD, MPH
Major Cecili Sessions, MD, MPH
AFMS Medical Innovations Division
August 2011



Agenda

- Overview Patient-Centered Precision Care (PC²)
- Genomic Disease and Medicine
- Implementing Genomic-informed Medicine
- PC²Z Program Approach and Objectives
 - Knowledge Generation Research Pillar
 - Bioinformatics Research Pillar
 - Genomic Education Research Pillar
 - Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues / Policy Research Pillar
 - Systems Engineering / Advance Genomic Diagnostic System
- Whole Genome Sequencing and the future of PC²Z
- Future PC²Z Program Collaborative



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PC² Overview

- Air Force Medical Service Patient-Centered Precision Care (PC²)
 - State of the art, evidence-based, personalized care incorporating all available patient information
 - Targeted prevention, diagnostics and therapy
 - Two parallel efforts
 - PC2-Clinical (Air Force Clinical Decision Support)
 - PC²-Z (Genomic Medicine Research)
- PC2-Z (Genomic Medicine Research)
 - Advance genome-informed personalized medicine in AFMS
 - Leverage existing AFMS resources, infrastructure, and data
 - Develop agile, scalable program



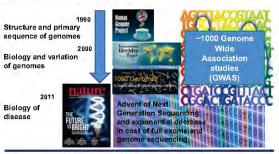
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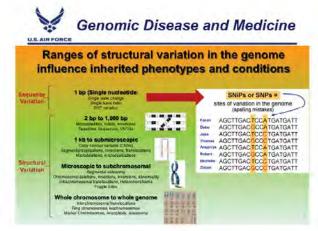


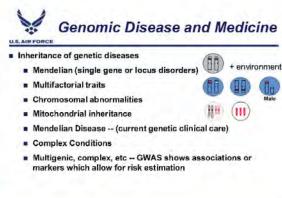
Genomic Disease and Medicine

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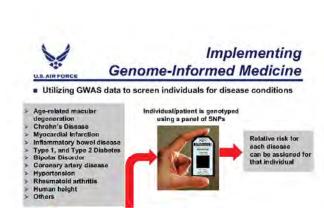
■ The long road to realizing genome-informed medicine







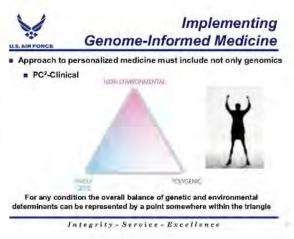
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SNPs for each disease yields an Odds Ratio

(OR) for each disease





Implementing Genome-Informed Medicine

- Collaboration is absolutely necessary
- Technology outpacing medical evidence for clinical implementation
 - Perception: ability to sequence the genome = clinical action
 - Complex conditions? Clinical utility? Modest effect size?
- Show-stopping ethical, legal, and social issues for military
- Need to establish policy and to adapt to changes in field/society
- Healthcare teams and patients need education and experience
- Requires proven, robust health informatics in routine clinical use
- Solution system will need to incorporate regulatory requirements, need for accepted standards, interoperability across healthsystems, patient rights, intellectual property/reimbursement, translation function for rapid integration of new evidence

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PC2Z Program Approach

- Consortium of leading experts to direct / inform integrated program
 - Government and academic partners; JHU APL program integrator
 - Collaboration and transparency













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PC2Z Program Approach

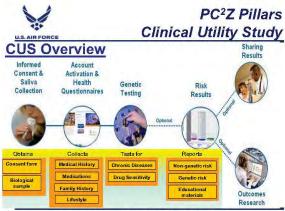


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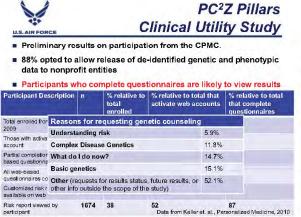


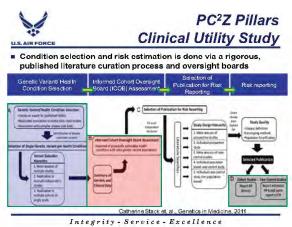
PC2Z Pillars

- Knowledge Generation / Research Pillar (KGR)
 - Objective: expand evidence for clinical utility of genomic information
 - Longitudinal Clinical Utility Study
 - Report genomic risk to participants
 - Complex conditions treated in Primary Care
 - Potentially clinically actionable
 - Objective: create digital biobank
 - Full sequence and clinical data
 - Objective: support knowledge generation / discovery studies
 - NIH NCBI dbGAP mechanism











PC²Z Pillars Clinical Utility Study

■ Current, board-approved conditions and drug/variant pairs

ICOB/PAG approved conditions	Risk factors (other than genetic variant)	Multi-variable adjustment
Age-related macular degeneration	Family history Smoking	None
Coronary Artery Disease	Family history Smoking Diabetes	Yes
Iron Overload / Hemochromatosis	None	None
Type 2 Diabetes	Family history Body Mass IndeX	Yes
Melanoma	Family history	None
Prostate Cancer	Family history	Yes
Lupus	Family history Smoking	None
Type 1 Diabetes	Family history	Yes.
GYP2C19/ Glopidografi	Use of Proton pump inhibitors	None

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Risk reporting is <u>not only</u> genetic risk, but <u>all known</u> risk factors

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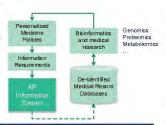


PC²Z Pillars Bioinformatics

 Objective: develop learning system that incorporates genomic data into existing and future DoD informatics tools

System Adaptability

Architecture of AF Medical Informatics System must be flexible and adaptable to accommodate changing information requirements resulting from changing medical knowledge and practice.



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PC²Z Pillars Education Research Pillar

- Objective: ensure healthcare team, to include the patient, has an adequate understanding of genomic medicine
- Objective: support graduate medical education research requirements



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PC²Z Pillars ELSI/ Policy Research Pillar

- Objective: develop agile, adaptable mechanism to enable AF/DoD policy that is evidence-based and current
- Objective: address ELSI issues throughout program

Program Needs to be Anticipatory, Not Reactive



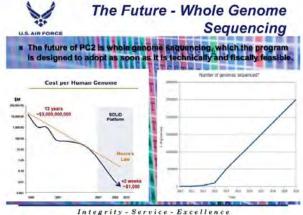
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PC2Z Pillars

- Systems Engineering / Advanced Genomic Diagnostic Concepts
 - Objective: develop diagnostic system which enables delivery of full-sequence genomic information into health system workflow
 - Integrate expanding evidence-base
 - informatics standards for interoperability across diverse platforms
 - ethical, legal, and social issues
 - patient autonomy/rights
 - regulatory, intellectual property, medical-legal documentation and reimbursement requirements









Patient Health Record with Secure Messaging (PHR/SM) Implementation at Elmendorf AFB

Drs. Ritu Agarwal and Catherine Anderson, University of Maryland

We describe early results of a pilot patient health record (PHR) project implemented and deployed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in December 2010. The PHR tool supports entry and management of health information directly by patients, integrates with the patient's clinical record, and supports secure patient-provider messaging. It is a core component of the US Air Force's transition towards a healthcare delivery system that is patient-focused and incorporates principles of the Patient Centered Medical Home. We provide a brief summary of the project from its initial motivation through development and the go-live period. We outline our long-term research goal which is to gather evidence to demonstrate the value of this suite of tools on patients' health outcomes, their empowerment in making health-related decisions, engagement with healthcare, and the efficiency of health services delivery. Finally, we provide early evidence from surveys of users and providers conducted at the launch of the pilot to assess their baseline expectations about the system and insights on effectiveness of change management efforts. 1,639 patients registered during the project's three month baseline period. 283 patients responded to the email survey requests. Approximately half of the providers completed surveys. While it is very early in the implementation of the PHR and available data for analysis is limited, we are able to make a few recommendations based on preliminary findings. Early results indicate an overwhelmingly positive patient response to the PHR tool which is not reflected to the same degree by the providers. Consequently, training and messaging targeted toward providers should be positive but also realistically set expectations. As the PHR is deployed at other MTFs, opportunities to personally promote the PHR via registration desks and directly through providers and staff should be emphasized as findings suggest these mechanisms result in higher positive patient perceptions of and intentions to use the PHR.

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Patient Health Record with Secure Messaging (PHR/SM) Implementation at Elmendorf AFB



Drs. Ritu Agarwal and Catherine Anderson, University of Maryland Col. J. Zarate, USAF Maj. Claudine Ward, USAF

August 2011



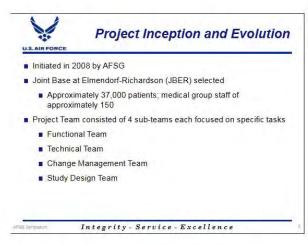
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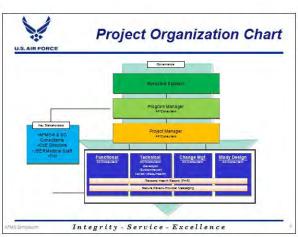
- Empowering patients with technology
- Project background & objectives
- Project inception and evolution
- Project organization
- System rollout
- Early adopters who are they and what are their usage patterns?
- Research study overview & baseline highlights
- Next steps

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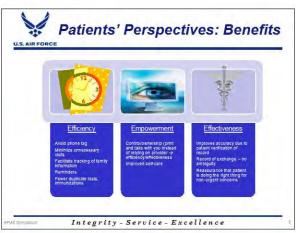








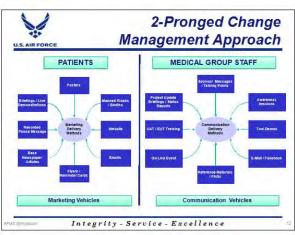


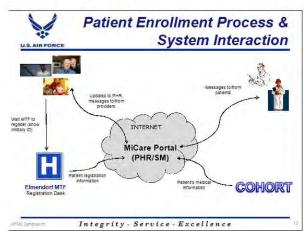


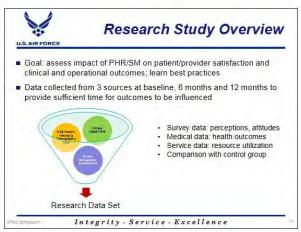




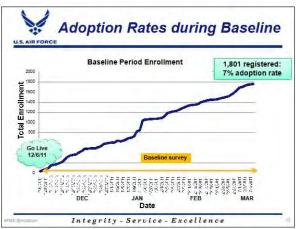


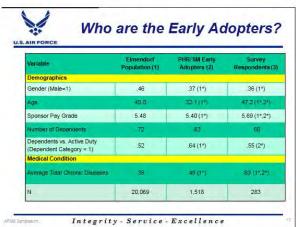


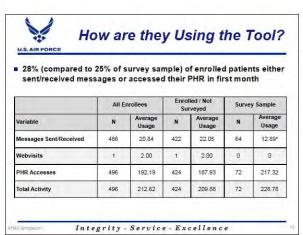


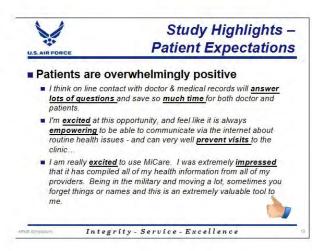


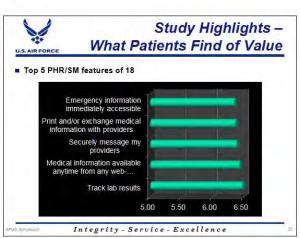


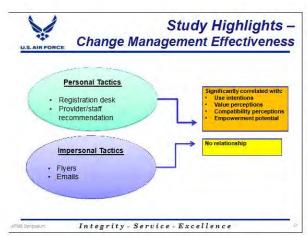




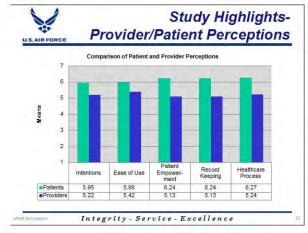














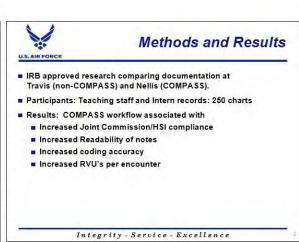


Effects of COMPASS Workflow Documentation Quality of Family Medicine Physicians using the Military Electronic Health Record (AHLTA)

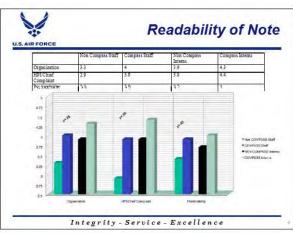
Lt Col Charles Motsinger, Workflow Division, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Air Force Medical Support Agency

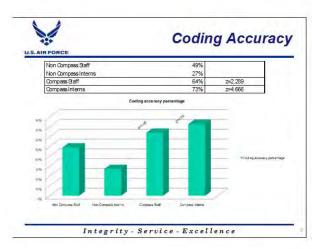
Abstract: Electronic medical records are touted to be able to improve the documentation of medical care. To date there are no studies applying a standardized clinical workflow to an electronic medical record. AIMS: To determine if the COMPASS workflow improves the documentation and coding of family physicians using the military's electronic medical record (AHLTA). Method: 189 charts were reviewed retrospectively from two Air Force family medicine residency sites. Primary outcomes were compliance with Joint Commission (JC) and Health Services Inspection (HSI) requirements for outpatient documentation, relative value units (RVU's) per encounter, coding accuracy, and readability of notes. Results: The COMPASS workflow is associated with a significant increase in compliance with JC and HSI requirements (P<.05), a significant increase in RVU's per encounter (P<.05), a significant increase in readability of notes (P<.05).

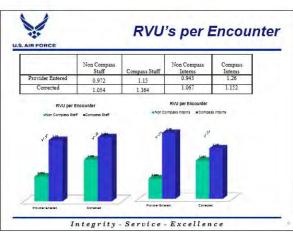
Headquarters U.S. Air Force Integrity - Service - Excellence Effects of COM PASS Workflow on Documentation Quality of Family Medicine Physicians using the Military Electronic Health Record (AHLTA) Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division Office of the Chief Information CHING Section 1981 Workflow Division 1981 Workflow Division 1981 Office of the Ching Section 1981 Workflow Division 1981 Workflow Divi













Teamwork Factors Affecting Safe Blood Product Administration

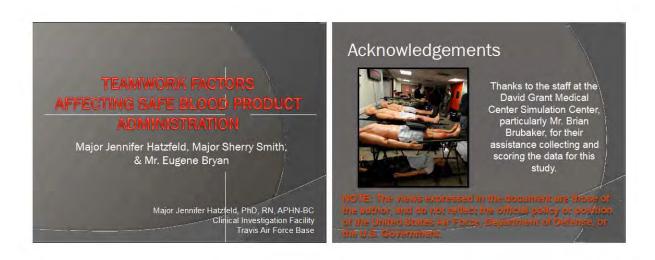
Maj Jennifer Hatzfield, Travis AFB, United States Air Force

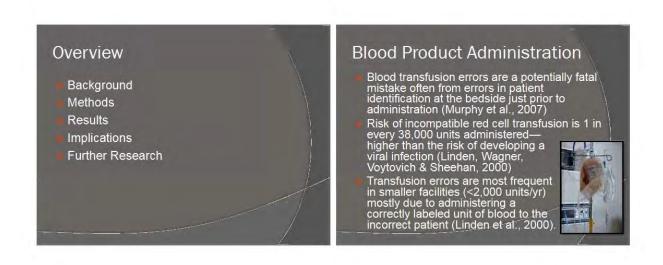
Background: Blood transfusion errors are a potentially fatal mistake that can occur within the hospital setting and often result from errors in patient identification at the bedside just prior to administration. Transfusion errors are most frequent in smaller facilities and primarily due to administering a correctly labeled unit of blood to the incorrect patient.

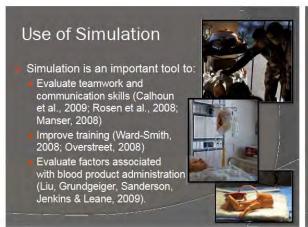
Methods: Between March 2009 and August 2009, the simulation center at David Grant Medical Center devised a scenario to test if appropriate patient identifiers were verified prior to administering a unit of packed red blood cells. Thirteen teamwork activities were scored for sixteen different clinical teams.

Results: Of the sixteen simulations, four teams (25%) hung the incorrect blood for the patient in the simulated environment. One teamwork factor (team cross-monitors and gives feedback) was statistically significantly lower for groups that gave the wrong blood (p=0.03). Four other items suggested differences between groups, but were not statistically significant because of the limited sample size. These factors included directing responsibility to individual team members (p=0.13), engaging the patient in treatment (p=0.15), making decisions through collective input (p=0.13), and clear goals articulated from the leader (p=0.11). There were no differences in the scores from the other teamwork factors (p=1.0 for all).

Conclusion: The simulation environment provides a valuable avenue to practice and evaluate high-risk activities, such as blood product administration. Additional study is needed to determine if the identified teamwork items are significantly different in a larger sample size and in other high-risk activities.







TeamSTEPPS® Stands for: "Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety" Evidence-based, teamwork system to improve patient safety Developed by the DoD Patient Safety Program and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Comprised of four specific skills: Communication

(AHRQ, 2010)

Methods

- 17 different clinical teams were evaluated between March 2009 and August 2009
- Efforts part of scheduled Team STEPPS training accomplished in the simulation center by every inpatient unit
- Scenario designed to test if appropriate patient identifiers were verified prior to administering a unit of packed red blood cells (PRBCs).
- Scenarios were videotaped, and then scored by a single TeamSTEPPS trained staff member at the Simulation Center
- 13 teamwork factors were scored for each team

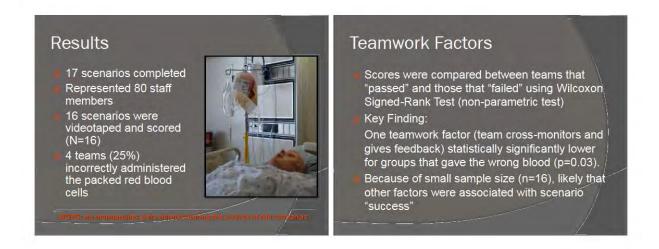
The Scenario

Leadership Situation Monitoring Mutual Support

- Patient presented with signs/symptoms of low Hemoglobin/Hematocrit
- Nursing staff had to provide telephone report to physician
- Provider directed nursing staff to request 1 unit of packed red blood cells, and he/she would arrive
- When physician arrived, brought the unit of PRBCs, and instructed the nursing staff to give it "right away"

 The PRBCs brought by the provider were for a different patient (different name, and different SSN) and was a different blood type





Teamwork Factors Four other items suggested differences between groups: Directing responsibility to individual team members (p=0.13) [higher for teams that gave the wrong blood] Includes patient/family in communication (p=0.15) Make decisions through collective input (p=0.13) Clear goals articulated from the leader (p=0.11)

Teamwork Factors No other differences in scores were observed from the remaining teamwork factors. Verbal Communication Leadership Use of SBAR format (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) (p=0.67) Team members express common understanding of problem and roles (p=1.0) Leader holds team members accountable (p=1.0) (p=0.67) Check Back: Closed loop communication (p=1.0) Hand-Off/Debriefs at transitions in care (p=1.0) Team shares information/makes decisions through collective input (p=1.0) Team members empowered to speak-up and challenge (p=1.0) Situation Monitoring/ Mutual Support Shared Mental Model (p=1.0)

Effective Feedback (p=1.0)

Implications for Local Practice Implications for Patient Safety Scenario highlighted the need for further Specific teamwork factors appear to be process improvement in blood product associated with poor patient safety administration (Blood product checklist completed in 2010) Initial and recurring teamwork training Reinforces the need for continued should emphasize the importance of each TeamSTEPPS training using simulations (Is the investment of staff time worthwhile?) teamwork factor Simulations can provide a safe environment Supports the need for units to evaluate and improve teamwork factors to learn from failure (Does a teamwork score really matter?) Direct feedback for the participants Ability to evaluate trends within an organization

Limitations

- Limited sample size
- Accomplished at one location
- TeamSTEPPS teamwork factors have face validity, but scores have not been validated with established teamwork measures
- Inter-rater reliability of scores has been a problem in the past, reason for a single rater in this project

Future Research

- Expand scenarios to include other lowvolume, high-risk activities: is success associated with the same teamwork factors
- What is the role of experience and expertise on teamwork and patient safety outcomes
- Explore the relationship among teamwork factors (communication, leadership, situation monitoring & mutual support)
- Further validation of teamwork scoring elements is needed



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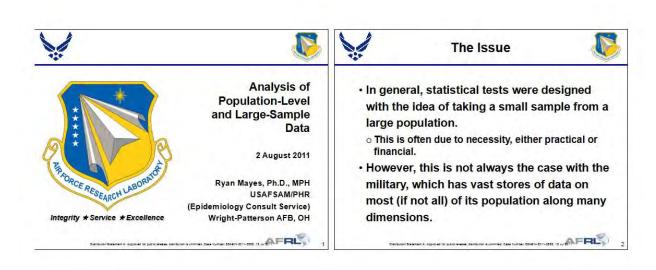
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Analysis of Population-Level Data

Dr Ryan Mayes, United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

Sampling techniques and statistical tests are required to estimate population parameters in the absence of data for a fully enumerated population. However, in the military, it is often the case that population-level data are available. This raises two interesting questions: (1) when a population is fully enumerated, is it appropriate to apply sample-based techniques (hypothesis tests, confidence intervals, etc.) and (2) if not, what procedures should be used? This presentation will address both questions. Discussion of the first question will review why it is inappropriate to simply treat population data as a sample of a larger population and use sample-based testing. Sample-based techniques are not needed to estimate a parameter if that parameter can be calculated; it is not appropriate to apply these techniques to data for a fully enumerated population. The second question will address alternatives to sample-based testing. Hypothesis tests answer the question of whether a difference between a parameter and a sample statistic (or between two statistics) is likely real ("significant") but remain silent on whether the difference is important. When comparing two parameters, any detected difference is real - a hypothesis test would be of no use. Because differences are very likely to occur, determining whether a difference is important becomes the predominant task. To evaluate the importance of detected differences, options based on both magnitude and probability will be presented. The magnitude-based option sets a priori differences in effect sizes, while the probability-based option uses a non-sample-based z-test (using the population standard deviation rather than a standard error). Multivariable analyses will also be discussed.





The Issue



- · Despite the difference in data availability between military and civilian agencies, the military often uses the same data analysis techniques that were developed for
- This may not be an appropriate approach for instance, an often-forgotten guideline is that most statistical tests of significance are designed for samples no larger than 5% of the population size.

relatively small samples of large

populations.





The Issue



- · Let's consider a (fabricated) example. Suppose we want to know if the systolic blood pressure (SBP) of active duty Air Force (ADAF) Public Health (PH) personnel is substantially different from ADAF personnel in general.
- An Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application query yields the following*:
- ο μ (mean SBP of all ADAF) = 115.0
- $\circ \overline{X}$ (mean SBP of 1000 PH personnel) = 115.5
- o s (standard deviation of SBP for 1000 PH) = 4.5
- o σ (standard deviation of SBP for all ADAF) = 4.5
- on (number of PH "sampled") = 1000

*Data are fabricated and are entirely for illustrative purposes.



The Issue





Scenario 1: Small Sample



- · With these data for 1000 individuals, there are three possibilities for the relationship between sample and sample population:
 - 1. The data could be a small sample (<5%) of a large population (this would mean that the entire population of PH personnel would need to be 20,000+).
 - 2. The data could be a large sample relative to the population size (such as 1000 sampled out of 2000
 - The data could comprise a census (an entire population).
- · We'll examine approaches for each of these possibilities.



- · Generally, we would approach this problem as a typical, basic hypothesis test. This is entirely appropriate for a relatively small sample. We'd set up our null hypothesis as something like H_0 : $\mu = 120$.
- · We would next run the test:

$$z = \frac{(\bar{x} - \mu)}{\sqrt{s}} = \frac{(115.5 - 115.0)}{4.5 / \sqrt{1000}} = 3.513$$

· This yields a very small p-value (0.000442); we conclude that the SBP of PH personnel is significantly different from that of the AF in general.





Scenario 2: Large Sample

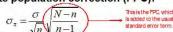




Scenario 2: Large Sample



- · If the sample of n=1000 came from a population of N=2000, it would no longer be appropriate to use a typical hypothesis test.
- o One of the underlying assumptions of sampling theory is violated; our sample is well above 5% of the population size[‡].
- · The relatively large sample size would prompt the use of the finite population correction (FPC):



 \circ Where N is the population size and n is the sample

* Cochran WG. Sampling Techniques. 3" ed. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1977.



 If the sample of n=1000 came from a population of N=2000. the relatively large sample size would prompt the use of

$$Z = \frac{\left(\overline{x} - \mu\right)}{\sigma_{x}} = \frac{\left(\overline{x} - \mu\right)}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{N - n}{N - 1}}\right)} = \frac{\left(115.5 - 115.0\right)}{\frac{4.5}{\sqrt{1000}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2000 - 1000}{2000 - 1}}\right)} = 4.968$$

- · Here, p=0.00000339.
 - o Recall that z=3.513 and p= 0.000442 using traditional
- This is good news: compared to the results using traditional analysis, analysis with the FPC produces stronger evidence (and has the benefit of being technically correct).





Scenario 2: Large Sample



Scenario 2: Large Sample



· Take-home message: when the sample is a large proportion of the population (>5%), use the FPC‡!

 \circ Substitute $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ with $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\sqrt{\frac{N-n}{N-1}}$

 This appropriately adjusts for the relative sample size and provides stronger evidence for hypothesis tests.

Cochran WG. Sampling Techniques. 3rd ed. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1977.



· The FPC can also be used with confidence intervals (CIs):

95% CI =
$$\bar{x} \pm z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \sqrt{\frac{N-n}{N-1}}$$

· This will make the confidence interval narrower (more precise) as compared to an interval without the FPC.





Scenario 3: Census







- · Before delving in to census analysis, let's review the effect of sample size on hypothesis tests.
- o Imagine that we had taken a smaller sample (n=100) of PH personnel:

 $z = \frac{(\bar{x} - \mu)}{s / \sqrt{n}} = \frac{(115.0 - 115.5)}{4.5 / \sqrt{100}} = 2.222$

- > This yields a p-value of 0.0263. We would still reject the null, but the evidence isn't as strong . . .
- o If we take a still smaller sample (n=50),

 $z = \frac{\left(\overline{x} - \mu\right)}{s / \sqrt{n}} = \frac{\left(115.5 - 115.0\right)}{4.5 / \sqrt{50}} = 1.571$

> Here, p=0.116: we would conclude that the SBP of PH personnel does not differ significantly from all ADAF.

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Scenario 3: Census



- · It's no mystery that a larger sample size generally results in smaller p-value, but is this always appropriate?
- · Consider the case where the "sample" of n=1000 is not actually a sample but rather a census of all PH personnel (i.e., the population is 1000, all of which were included in the analysis).
- · In this case, we're no longer dealing with the sampling distribution of sample means but rather with two fully described populations.
- · Is hypothesis testing appropriate in this situation?





Scenario 3: Census



 If we are dealing with a population rather than a sample, the typical z-test is no longer appropriate, since we're not analyzing a sample:

$$z = \frac{(\overline{x} - \mu)}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}}$$

Instead, we would calculate a z score for the population:

$$z = \frac{(x - \mu)}{\sigma} = \frac{(115.5 - 115.0)}{4.5} = 0.222$$

- Here, p=0.824 but has a very different interpretation than the previously calculated p-values.
- In general, it means that there is an 82.4% chance that a given individual from this population will produce an average SBP at least this high.





Scenario 3: Census



- There are several approaches one could take when population-level data are available:
- o Treat the data as a sample from a super-population.
- o Take a sample of the population-level data.
- o Examine the magnitude of difference.





Scenario 3: Census Super-Population



- Perhaps the simplest approach is to treat the population as part of a larger, hypothetical superpopulation.
- In this case, one would proceed using normal hypothesis testing methods (remember to use the FPC if the population is anticipated to be larger than 5% of the super-population).
- o This is often the approach used in existing literature.
- This may or may not be appropriate. As a guideline, if the problem at hand is specific to a particular group (place, time, etc.), the super-population approach probably doesn't apply.
- This applies to many AF queries the group of interest often consists of current personnel, not necessarily future/unknown personnel.





Scenario 3: Census Subsample



- Another approach is to subsample the population for which you have full data.
- One advantage is that traditional hypothesis tests would be appropriate for analysis.
- However, this has some theoretical issues: the purpose of hypothesis testing is to estimate an unknown population. We don't actually need to do that if we have data for the entire population.
- Therefore, this approach is only recommended if formal hypothesis testing is absolutely required (i.e., for publication).

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Scenario 3: Census Magnitude of Difference





Scenario 3: Census Magnitude of Difference



- Hypothesis tests answer whether a difference is statistically significant – in other words, whether a difference is "real."
- When dealing with population data, this question is irrelevant – any difference between two populations is a real difference.
- What should be addressed is whether a difference is important.
- o Statistical significance vs. clinical significance



- In the SBP example, there is a demonstrable difference between the ADAF and PH SBPs.
 As shown above, this difference is statistically significant.
- However, the difference is 0.5 (115 vs. 115.5), which is not a large clinical difference.
- o Even though the difference is real, is it important?
- Should any action be taken based on this disparity?





Scenario 3: Census Magnitude of Difference





Scenario 3: Census Magnitude of Difference



- A thorough literature review has not found any established methods of analyzing population-level data.
- Therefore, it is recommended that the magnitude of the difference between groups be considered.
- The simplest way to do this is to look at the absolute difference; an a priori benchmark must be set.
- If the PH SBP is at least 5% higher than the ADAF SBP, the difference will be considered important.
- Here, the PH SBP is only about 0.4% higher, which is not a large difference.

AFRE

- A slightly more sophisticated approach (and the recommended one) would be to base the magnitude of difference on the population
- \circ Again, an *a priori* limit will need to be set, this time in terms of a proportion of σ .
- Example: a difference will be deemed important if it exceeds 20% of σ.
 - \circ Here, $\sigma = 4.5$. 4.5*(0.20) = 0.9.

standard deviation σ .

 The difference is (115.5 – 115.0) = 0.5, which is less than the a priori standard. Therefore, we would not consider this difference to be important.

AFRIS



Scenario 3: Census Magnitude of Difference





Scenario 3: Census Magnitude of Difference



· Formally:

$$\delta = (\overline{x} - \mu) - (\sigma \gamma)$$

- \circ Where γ is the desired proportion (20% in the previous example) to be taken from σ .
- o If \$>0, the difference is considered important.
- · Compare this to a z-test

$$z = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu}{\sigma}$$

 \circ Note that δ is a difference statistic , while z is a proportion.





- o Appropriate for population-level data
- o Easy to apply
- $_{\odot}$ Flexible: to be more conservative, use a smaller proportion of σ
- Can be used with multiple data types (continuous, discrete, etc.)
- Disadvantages
- Not in common use, may still need to supplement with a p-value
- o Fairly subjective, no standard proportion of σ in place \digamma Of course, σ is also highly arbitrary





Multivariable Analyses





Multivariable Analyses



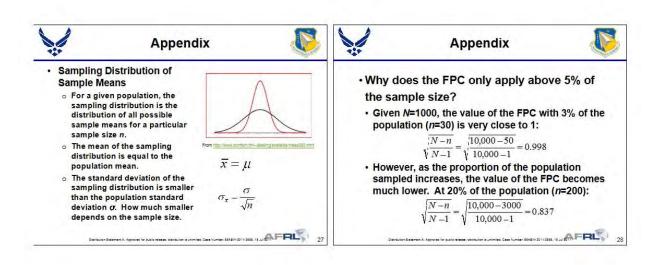
- For multivariable analyses (regressions, survival analysis, etc.) of large samples, the FPC can be used.
- It's possible to do this manually, but this approach would be challenging.
- Use of the FPC for multivariable analyses is automated in many statistical software packages.
 It is generally accessed through the sampling options.
 - Note, however, that this may result in (too) many variables being significant.



- When dealing with full population data, the super-population approach is very tempting.
- This approach may be more appropriate for multivariable analyses. Instead of whether there is a significant difference, multivariable analyses usually seek to answer which variables are important.
- This information could be germane to future members of the population.
- Future research will focus on developing/finding alternative methods.

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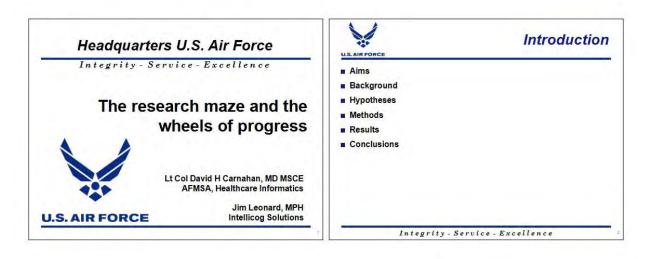


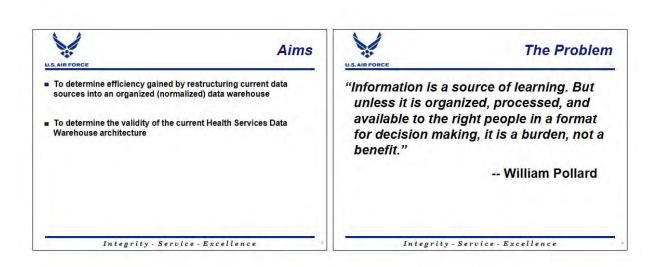


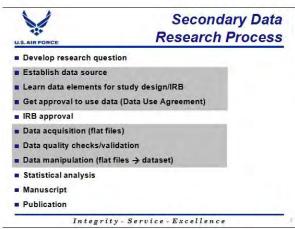
The Research Maze and the Wheels of Progress: How the Health Services Data Warehouse Will Transform the Way Research is Done.

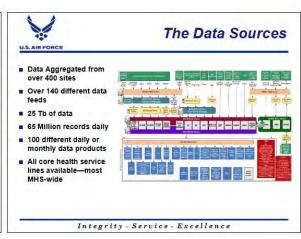
Lt Col David Carnahan, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Air Force Medical Support Agency

There are many challenges inherent in every observational study. In the Military Healthcare System (MHS), one of the biggest is accessing the many TB's of data that represent the medical care of 9.6 million MHS beneficiaries. The current process requires a clinical analyst to access multiple data sources with non-normalized files, determine relationships between the files, write computer code to establish linkages, which ultimately transforms flat files into analytic datasets needed for analysis. In some cases, to answer the research question appropriately requires multiple individuals to bring together data across different organizations to develop the dataset. This can be a great source of frustration, and a great deal of time spent which creates inertia, and hinders important health services research. By using a data warehouse, the data has already been brought together into a single source for researchers, saving time and effort in completing research projects, which allows a greater amount of projects to be accomplished. We will demonstrate efficiencies gained using a data warehouse to source the data by comparing it to current MHS practice of data acquisition and analysis using non-normalized data sources. The warehouse that has been created is named the Health Services Data Warehouse. We will be accessing the data warehouse using a data mart via SAS Enterprise Business Intelligence for analysis. To demonstrate practical application, we will use a research question on Traumatic Brain Injury and Mental Health as our proof of concept.

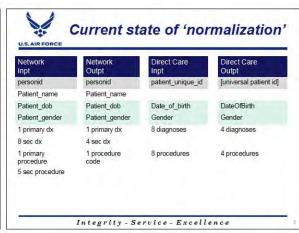




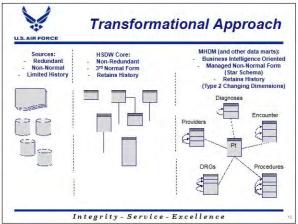




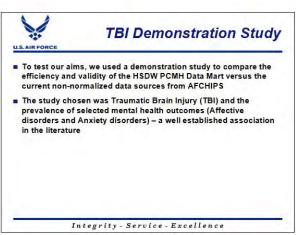














TBI and Mental Health Study

- Traumatic brain injury is damage to the brain resulting from external impacts from rapid deceleration, impacts, blast waves.1
- All traumatic brain injuries are head injuries. TBI is usually classified based on severity, anatomical features of the injury, and the mechanism (the causative forces).2
- TBI may cause emotional or behavioral problems and changes in personality.3 These may include emotional instability, depression, anxiety, hypomania, mania, apathy, irritability, and anger.4
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Hypotheses

- The HSDW will require less processing time, and less overall time to achieve an analysis dataset
- The HSDW cohort will be a subset of the AFCHIPS cohort
 - Due to the nature of claims data, it may take anywhere from 6 months to 12 months for a claim to enter the source data file
 - Because the HSDW cohort was frozen to new data entry since 01 Jan 2010, there will be late claims captured in the AFCHIPS database that have not made it into the HSDW

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Methods

- Retrospective cohort design
- - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - From 01 Oct 2008 to 31 Mar 2009
- Predictor variable TBI Grouper
- Covariates Age, Gender
- Outcome variable
 - Mental Health (MH) Grouper
 - Coded Behavioral Health ICD9-CM tool was used
- - AFCHIPS (Network Inpt/Outpt, Direct Care Inpt/Outpt)
 - HSDW PCMH Data Mart

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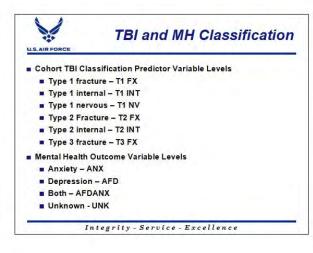


Barell Injury Diagnosis Matrix

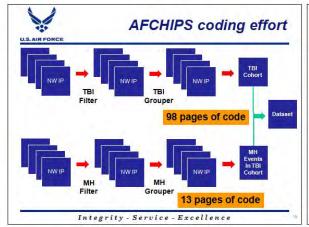
- TBI Grouper classifies head injuries as:
 - Type 1 TBI if there is recorded evidence of an intracranial injury or a moderate or a prolonged loss of consciousness (LOC), Shaken Infant Syndrome (SIS), or injuries to the optic nerve
 - Type 2 TBI includes injuries with no recorded evidence of intracranial injury, and LOC of less than one hour, or LOC of unknown duration, or unspecified level of consciousness.
 - Type 3 TBI includes patients with <u>no evidence of intracranial</u> injury and no LOC.
- Each TBI type is also subcategorized into:
 - Fracture

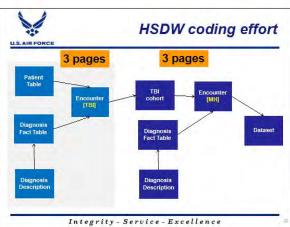
4. The Barell Injury Diagnosis Matrix, Classification by Body Region and Nature of the Injury, 2005

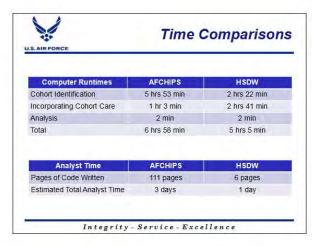
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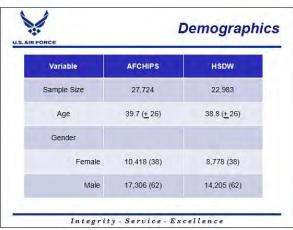


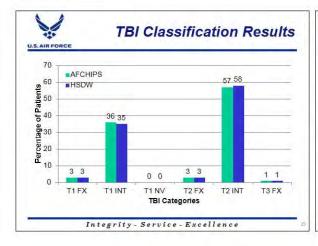


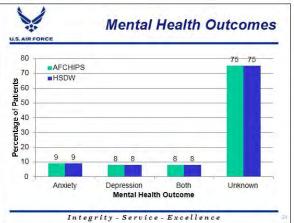


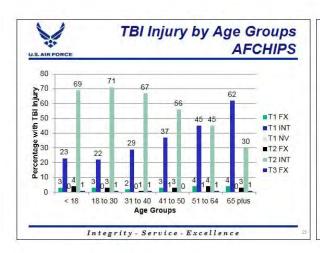


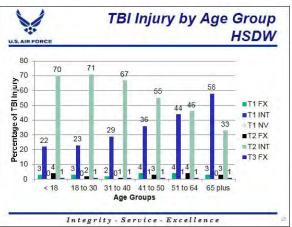


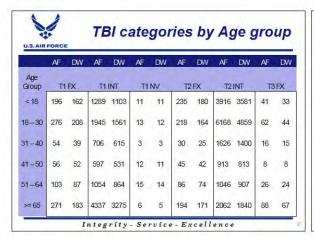


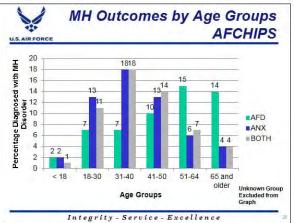


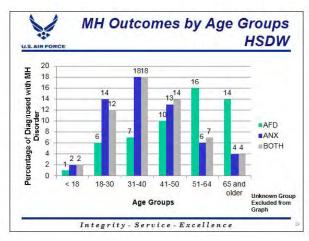


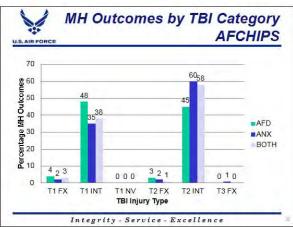


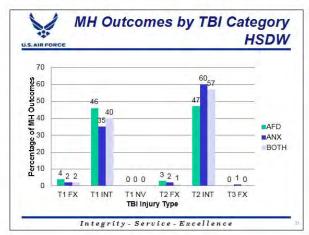


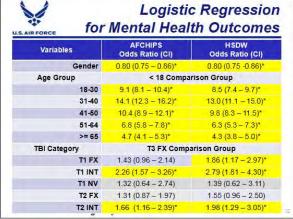


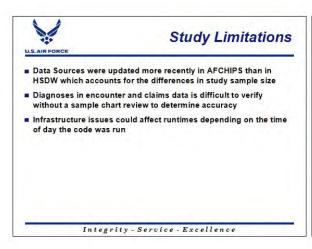


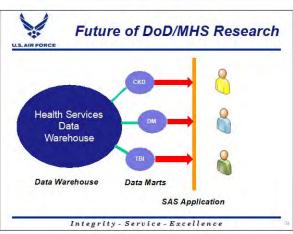


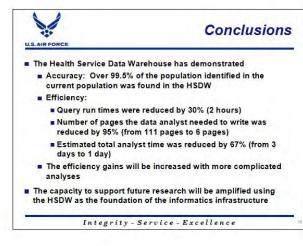














The Health Services Data Warehouse (HSDW) in Action: Focus on Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)

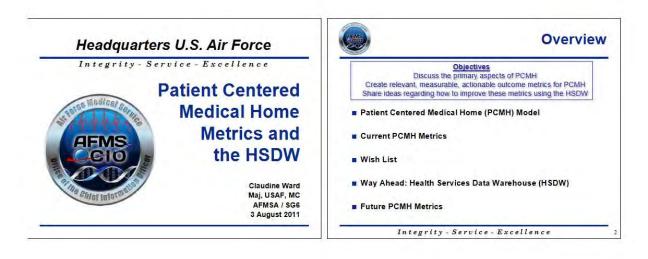
Maj Claudine Ward, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Air Force Medical Support Agency

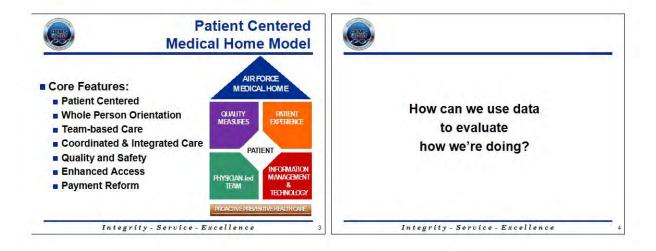
Background: Acquisition of healthcare data, streamlined data management, and effective information delivery are trouble areas within our current military medical system. Healthcare data is collected across multiple forums, resulting in confusion among users and differing metrics for similar measures depending on which source is referenced. Information delivery is often slow and inefficient, resulting in decision delays.

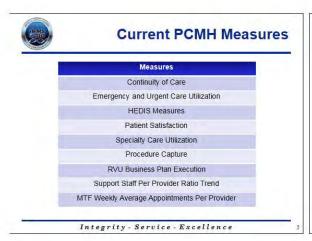
Intro: The Air Force Medical Service Office of the Chief Information Officer (AFMS OCIO) is striving towards consolidating healthcare data into one location, the Health Services Data Warehouse (HSDW), to allow for centralized data management and standardized data transformation. The HSDW will also focus on improved information delivery by providing easily accessible, usable information to senior level leadership and medical staff through deliverables such as push-reports and dashboards.

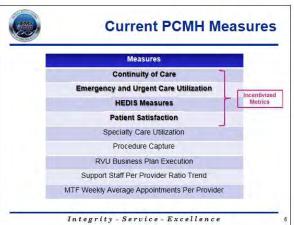
Methods: To illustrate how the HSDW will be used, Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) data will be examined. Rather than measuring performance measures based on production, PCMH focuses on healthcare outcomes of patients and efficient use of medical services. These new metrics must first be defined. Once defined, a PCMH data mart is created from HSDW, and contains the designated data elements related specifically to PCMH. With the data mart in place, PCMH push reports and dashboards are now created.

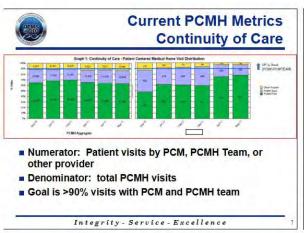
Conclusion: The HSDW is intended to serve as the 'cornerstone of an informatics strategy to better support clinical decision support, business intelligence, agile development, and improved analysis including a deidentified research view of the data' (FY10 Air Force HSDW SOW v4) as is demonstrated through PCMH.

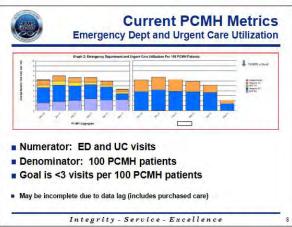


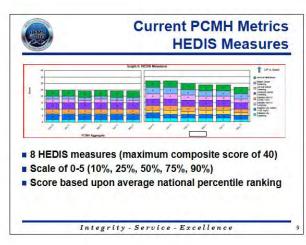


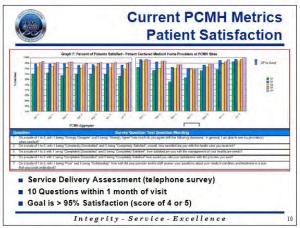




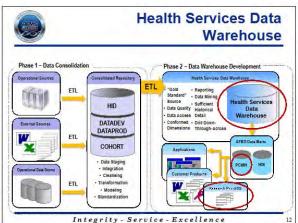


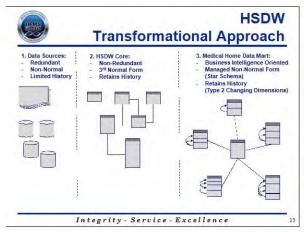


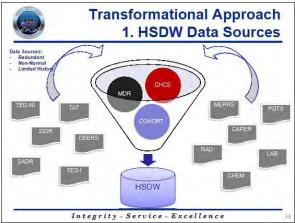


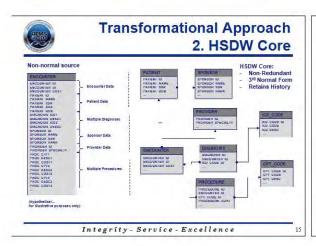


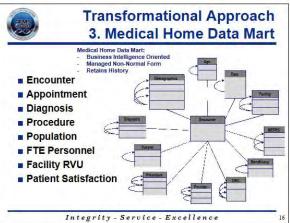




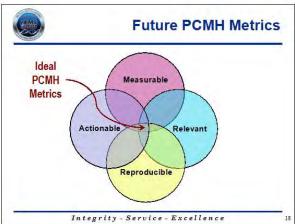


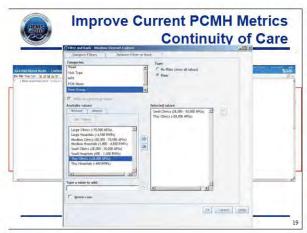


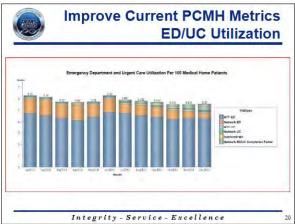


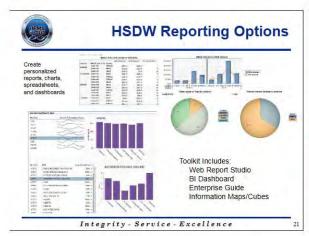












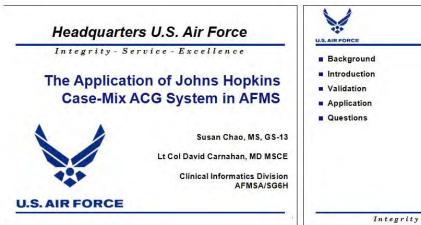


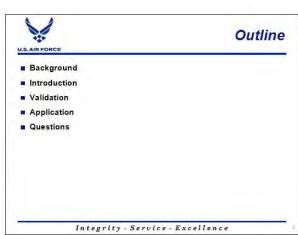


The Application of Johns Hopkins Adjusted Clinical Group Case-mix System in AFMS

Ms Susan Chao, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Air Force Medical Support Agency

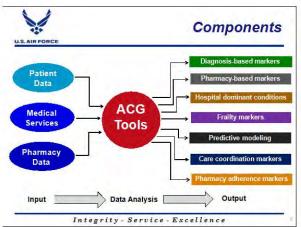
The Adjusted Clinical Group (ACG) Case-Mix System is a diagnosis- and medication-based risk-adjustment tool that has been adopted by more than 200 healthcare organizations in US and abroad and validated extensively in commercial and research settings over 15 years, but has only recently been implemented in AFMS. ACG offers a comprehensive family of measurements designed to help explain and predict how healthcare resources are delivered and consumed. Through its unique 'person-focused' approach, ACG captures the multidimensional nature of individual's health and morbidity burden of patient population, and it also can be used to identify and predict health care resource needs, enhance equitable distribution of limited resources, improve accuracy in provider profiling, streamline healthcare delivery, evaluate population health risk, and provide actionable information. FY09-FY10 M2 data were used to demonstrate capabilities of ACG and to validate its predictive models in AFMS-enrolled population. Sensitivity of predictive models for high total healthcare cost, high pharmacy cost and hospitalization were 39%, 69% and 28%, respectively, whereas the corresponding specificity were 97%, 98% and 96%, respectively. The performance of ACG in AFMS was comparable to that found in commercial HMO populations where the sensitivity for high total healthcare costs and hospitalization were 37% and 33%, respectively. This suggests that ACG can be applied to AFMS even though it was originally developed using commercial HMO and state Medicaid populations, AFMS leadership should take advantage of the readily available measures generated by ACG and, with these unparalleled and comprehensive measures, in turn develop effective population health policies.

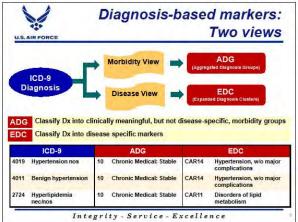


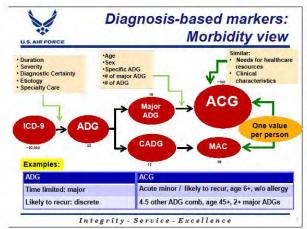


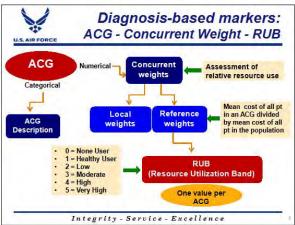


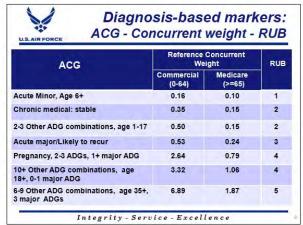


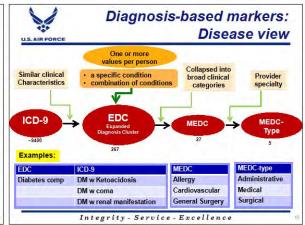


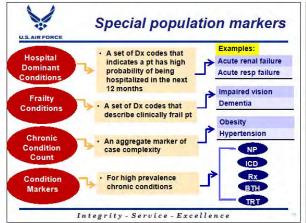




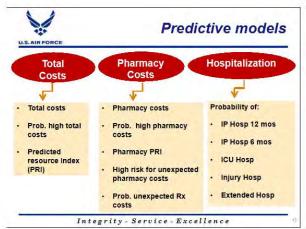


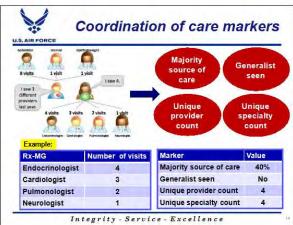




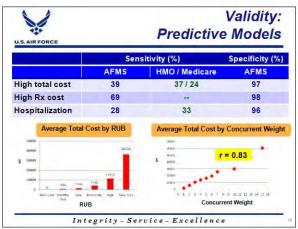


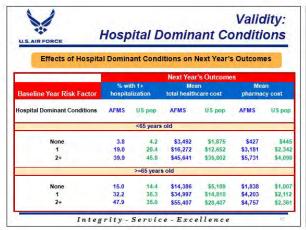






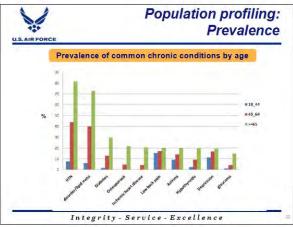


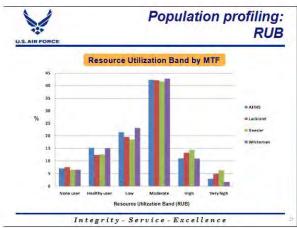


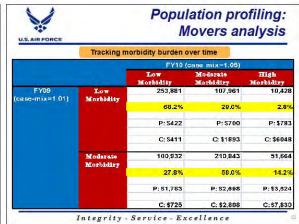


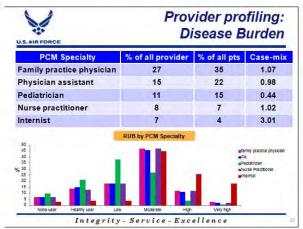


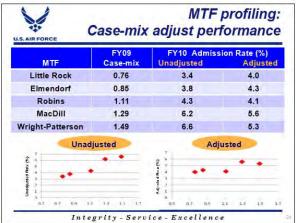


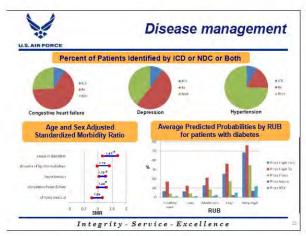


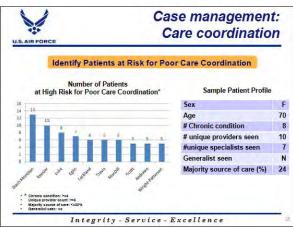


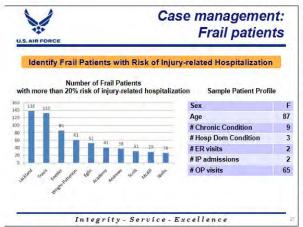


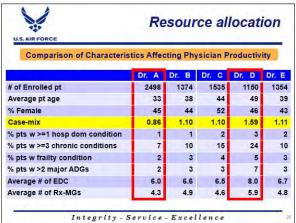














Pediatric Critical Care Training Validation Using High-Fidelity Pediatric Simulation

Lt Col (Dr) Daniel Bruzzini, 711 HPW/USAFSAM-ETS

Purpose: First-year pediatric residents and those deployed to natural disasters, humanitarian crises, and counterinsurgency battlefields must have the capability of treating children with critical care needs.

Hypothesis: Teaching the Society for Critical Care Medicine's (SCCM's) Pediatric Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (PFCCS) course and incorporating high-fidelity simulation pediatric critical care scenarios will improve the fund of knowledge, self-confidence, and performance capability of first-year pediatric residents.

Methods: All pediatric residents at the St. Louis University School of Medicine and the University of Missouri were taught the SCCM PFCCS Course. Each student completed an SCCM standardized and validated pretest and posttest, a survey of 10 five-point Likert scale questions on managing critical children before and after, and 2 videotaped pediatric critical care simulations with debriefings after each scenario.

Results: Fund of knowledge improved from a pretest score of 60% to a posttest score of 80%. Pediatric residents reported feelings of preparation increased by an average of 0.97 points on the Likert scale. Ten of 11 pediatric residents indicated they thought the course was "extremely helpful." Pediatric critical care simulation time to recognize a failed airway went from 72 s to 46 s. The time to perform CPR, defibrillate with paddles, and give intravenous epinephrine decreased from 3.50 to 1.33 min.

Conclusions: Pediatric critical care fund of knowledge, self-confidence, and clinical performance were improved in pediatric first-year residents by the SCCM PFCCS Course with high-fidelity simulation, thereby validating it as an important training methodology in building pediatric critical care capability.





Pediatric Critical Care Training Validation Using High-Fidelity Simulation

Col (s) Daniel B. Bruzzini, MD C-STARS Director of Pediatric Intensive and Emergency Medicine

Every Airman a Force Multiplier August 2011 AFMS Research Symposium

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Disclosure



- v I have no relevant financial interests to disclose.
- The views expressed in this presentation are solely those of the author and do not reflect the official policy of Saint Louis University, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, the Department of the Air Force, Air National Guard, Department of Defense, or the United States Government.

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Overview Every Airman a Force Multiplier



PFCCS Notable Military Applications



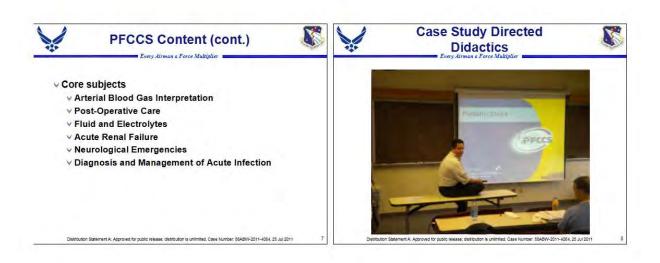
- → Pediatric Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (PFCCS) Course
 - v Interactive Case Study Directed Didactics
 - v Small Group Skill Stations
 - ∨ High-Fidelity Simulations
- Validating PFCCS Educational Research (KCC Method)
 - ∨ Knowledge Acquisition
 - ∨ Confidence in Caring for Critically III/Injured Children
 - ∨ Competency Assessment of Knowledge/Skills Taught

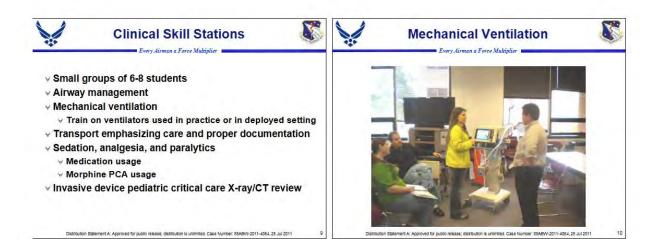
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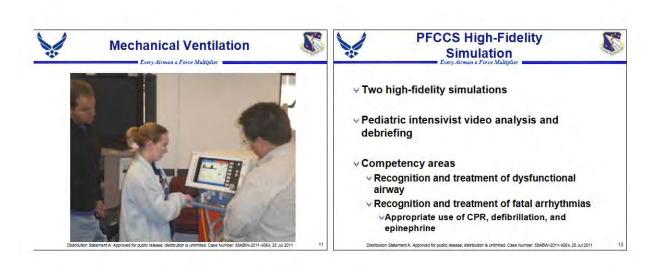
- √ 1st PFCCS course held at the Air National Guard's Readiness Frontiers National Meeting June 2011
 - ∨ CERFP CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package
 - ∨ HRF Homeland Response Force
- Travis AFB rapid response team requirement for its pediatricians
- Iraq/Afghanistan training requirement for deploying Air Force pediatricians

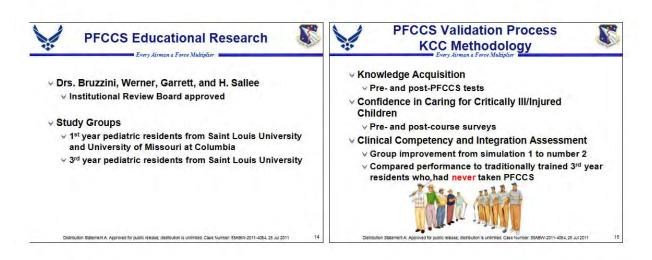
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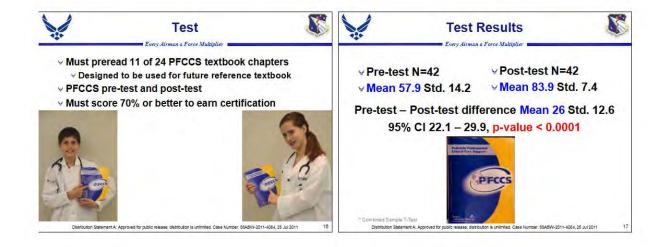


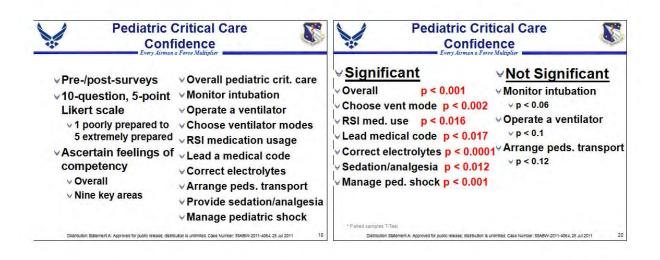


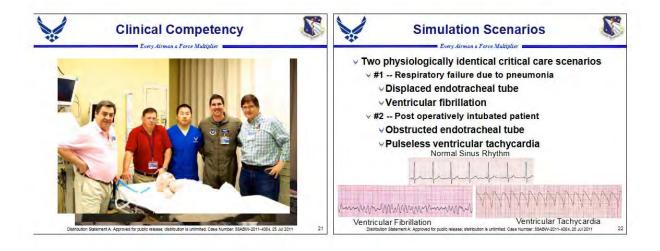


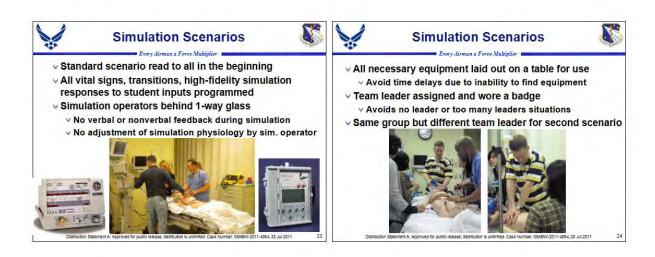




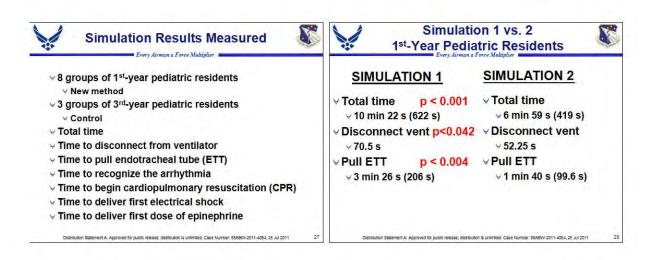


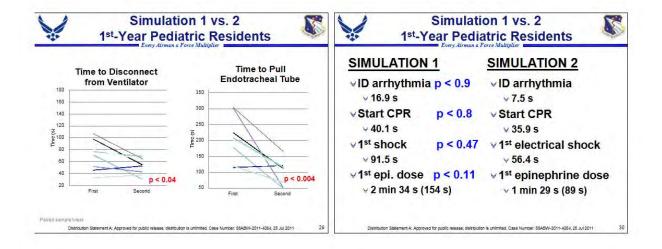


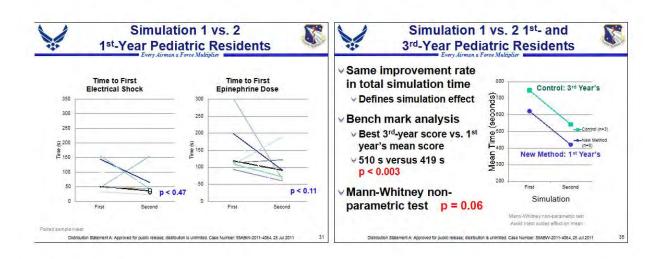




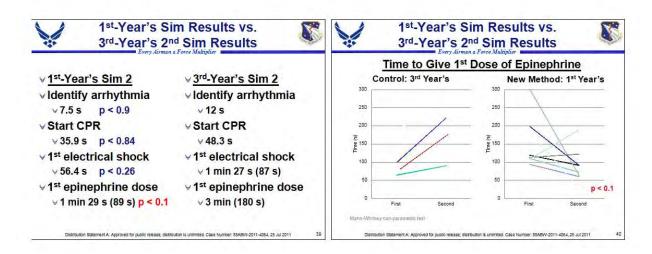


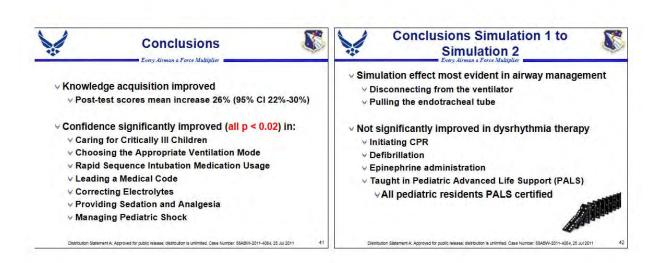














1st-Year New Method vs. 3rd-Year Control



Conclusions PFCCS Validation



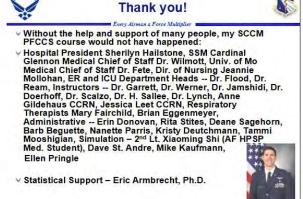
- y Significantly decreased
 - ▼ Total time
 - √6 min 59 s vs. 9 min 2 s
 - → Time to disconnect from vent
 - √52 s vs. 76 s
 - → Time to 1st epinephrine dose
 - √1 min 29 s vs. 3 min
- y Experience -- negative influence on airway management?
 - y Give fluid boluses

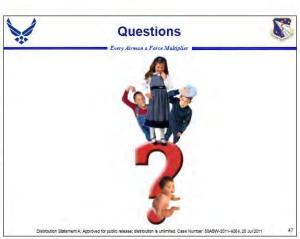
 - ∨ Limited 3rd-year group sample size

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- ✓ KCC Course Validation Methodology
 - ∨ Knowledge Testing
 - ∨Pre- and post-tests
 - ∨ Confidence in Capabilities
 - ∨Pre- and post-course surveys
 - ∨ Competency Demonstration
 - ∨Properly designed high-fidelity simulation
- PFCCS is a valid training methodology to prepare for children with critical care needs.

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Future C-STARS St. Louis PFCCS Courses





∨ Fridays and Saturdays

- y 23 & 24 September 2011
- v 14 & 15 October 2011
- v 27 & 28 April 2012
- v 11 & 12 May 2012
- ∨ Free to those attending C-STARS St. Louis
 - v Must coordinate in advance with Col (s) Bruzzini, MD
- Reduced rate if only taking the PFCCS course
- ∨ Contact: pfccs.saintlouis@gmail.com to register
- Can be exported off-site to train personnel locally
 - Contact: Col (s) Dan Bruzzini, MD -- dbruzzin@slu.edu

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Military/Civilian Costs

- ∨ No charge if enrolled in C-STARS St. Louis concurrently
- Must coordinate with Col (s) Bruzzini in advance
- ∨ If just wish to take the PFCCS without C-STARS training: \$400/300/300
- ∨ Civilian Physician/P.A./Nurse
- v Military Physician/P.A./Nurse \$350/250/250 V All Resident/R.T./Paramedic \$250
- ∨ Water Tower Inn Hotel:
 - Walking distance from

v Includes:

- SCCM PFCCS Course license
- SCCM Consultant, Director, and Instructor honorariums
- \$80 PFCCS textbook
- 19-20 continuing education hours for all students
- Rental of ventilators and their compressors
- High-Fidelity Simulation expendable supplies
- Breakfast/lunch/hospital parking
- Contact: pfccs.saintlouis@gmail.com to register or to request more information

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\$75/night



Notables on St. Louis PFCCS



- √ 5th institution in the United States to offer the Society of Critical Care Medicine's PFCCS course
- √ 1st institution to incorporate it en bloc into its Pediatric and Internal Medicine/Pediatric Residency
- 1st institution to validate the effectiveness of PFCCS residency incorporation through educational research
- V The only PFCCS institution to incorporate high-fidelity simulations with full videotaped debriefings
- Y Highest PFCCS continuing education credit nationwide
- VOnly PFCCS to offer continuing education hours for respiratory therapists and paramedics

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Contemplating a New Model for Air Force Aerospace Medical Technician Skills Sustainment Training SMSgt Robert Corrigan, 59th Medical Wing, United States Air Force Medical Service

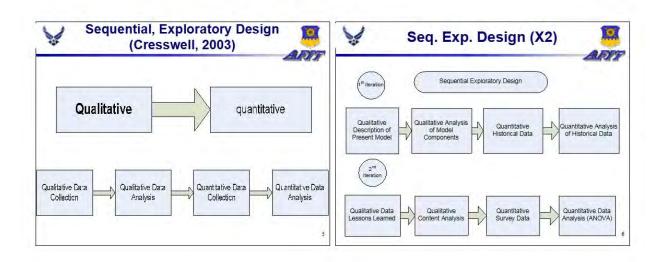
Two decades ago, Aerospace Medical Technicians received robust skills sustainment training through exposure to multi-faceted patient treatment environments. Available training environments included inpatient care, outpatient care, and emergency services. This diverse training environment made possible through large operating budgets and an extraordinary infrastructure could not last. Today (after five separate base closure and realignment initiatives), medical funding and infrastructure is but a shadow of what it once was. Budgetary constraints and rising healthcare costs have necessitated a purposeful movement away from inpatient and emergency care, toward outpatient and preventative medicine. While changes in Air Force health care delivery are necessary, the closure of inpatient and emergency services throughout the Air Force Medical Service significantly impacts our ability to prepare medical professionals and paraprofessionals for deployed operations. This research uses a mixed-methods framework (qualitative and quantitative) to demonstrate the importance of exploring alternative training models for medical skills sustainment training. Further, the study suggests an alternative training model that leverages existing network technologies (high fidelity patient simulation, asynchronous learning networks, and video-teleconferencing) to satisfy established learning objectives in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains of learning. The proposed model offers a potential mitigation strategy for medical skills sustainment training limitations experienced in a post-BRAC era plagued by budgetary constraints and the near complete loss of inpatient and emergency services training platforms.

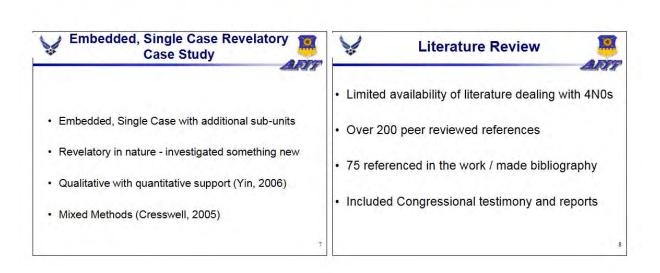


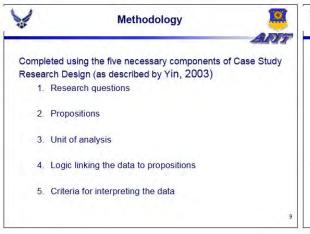
Today, the majority of Air Force Aerospace Medical Technicians perform their duties in a clinical environment. The difficulty experienced in providing effective war-time readiness training for these technicians has become a primary concern for Air Force senior medical planners.

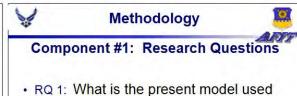
Reason for Topic





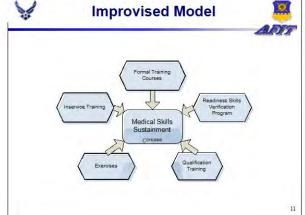


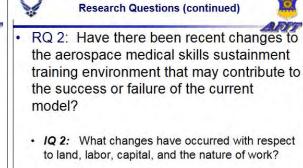




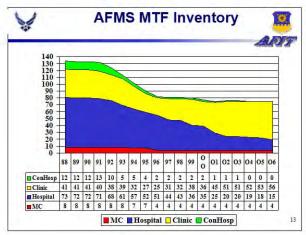
- RQ 1: What is the present model used to provide Air Force Aerospace Medical Technician skills sustainment training?
- IQ 1: What evidence suggests a formal model for aerospace medical technician skills sustainment training?

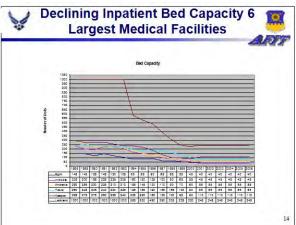
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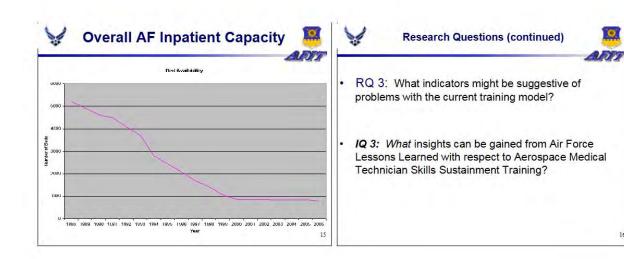


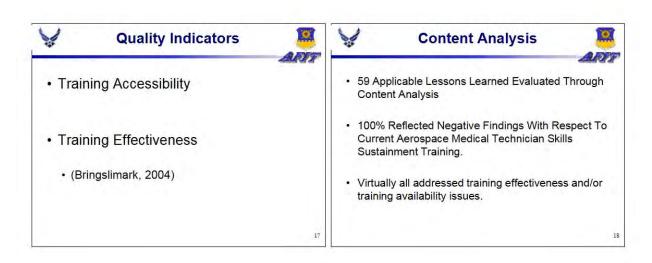


Personnel Reductions, Loss of MTFs, Declining Skill Sets for assigned personnel (Inpatient, ESD)

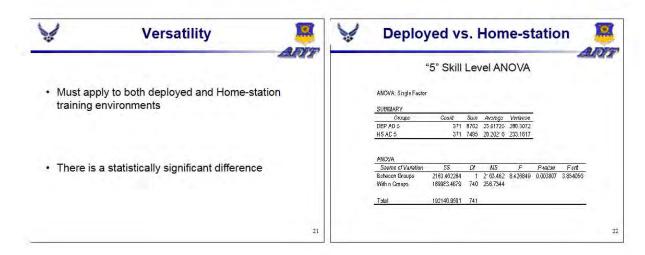


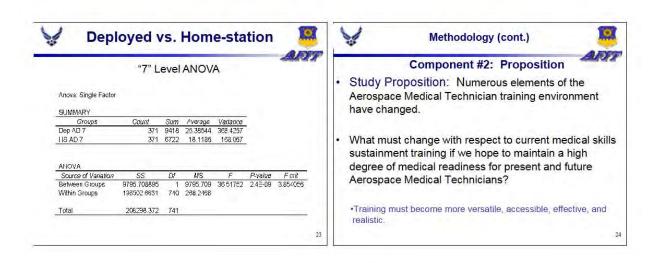


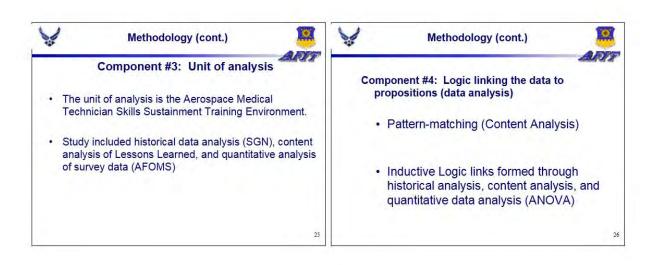


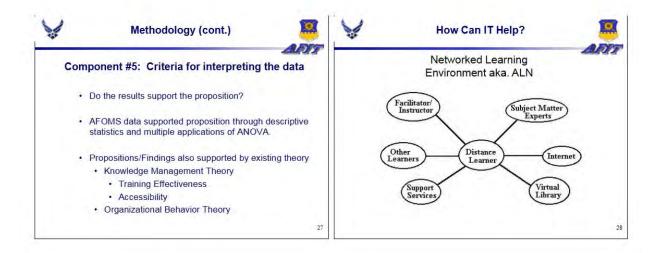






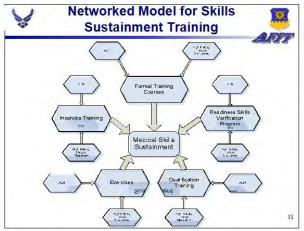








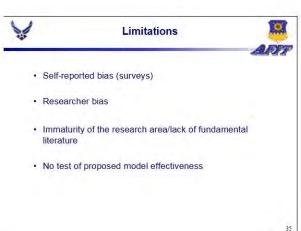
Barriers to distance based simulation training can be minimized through the integration of remote controlled high-fidelity patient simulators with an interactive 3D video teleconferencing / telepointing internet based network, whose geographical range is unlimited.













Special Needs Assessment and Planning Environment for Emergency Operations Decision Making

Mr Aaron Miller, 711 HPW/USAFSAM-ETS

During man-made or natural disasters, significant segments of the population have special medical needs that are not addressed by current emergency operations processes. These patients are often neglected during disasters due to limited resources resulting from insufficient knowledge of a system's capacity to respond to their needs.

A research and development project was conducted to: (1) assess the availability of detailed infrastructure data regarding population, medical facilities, and transportation resources and (2) identify a simulation tool capable of modeling the human behaviors of victims and responders during an emergency. The combination of these data and tool resulted in the Special Needs Assessment and Planning (SNAP) environment. Modifications to the user interface include app-based access from mobile devices. SNAP is a decision support tool that quickly and easily conducts statistical predictions of resource needs for supporting special medical needs patients. Further, as actual data are provided to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), reassessments using live data should provide a continuing series of predictions in real time.

To evaluate the fidelity of the SNAP environment, SNAP will be tested in Hamilton County, Ohio, in May during "Shaken Horizons," a multiregion exercise simulating local, regional, and national multidomain response to a large-scale earthquake. SNAP will be used inside the county's Emergency Planning Collaborative and provide medical facility and fire/rescue resource utilization predictions during the multiday event. Results from the actual event and the after-action review will be presented to illustrate SNAP's utility to EOC decision makers.





Special Needs Assessment and Planning (SNAP) Environment

Emergency Operations Decision Making By Aaron Miller Wright State Research Institute **National Center for Medical Readiness** 3 August 2011

Every Airman a Force Multiplier August 2011 AFMS Research Symposium

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The Problem



∨ Significant segments of the ∨ Often these functional population have special needs that are not addressed by current emergency operations processes.



- needs populations are neglected due to:
- Limited resources resulting from insufficient knowledge of system capacity
- People placed in shelters not equipped for them
- Insufficient planning and preparation
- y Inadequate access of medications

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The Problem



- Emergency planners and responders need to know:
 - How many people need to be evacuated? How many people will need medical attention?
 - ∀ How many neonatal patients will be in the disaster area? v How many dialysis patients will
 - What equipment is needed to respond to this disaster and the associated population?
 - Where should the temporary field hospital be set up and how should I organize resupply?



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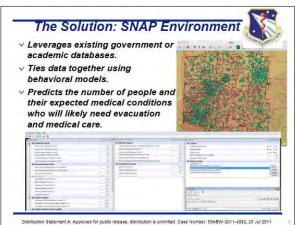
The Solution: SNAP Environment

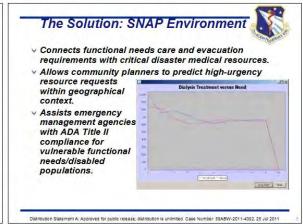


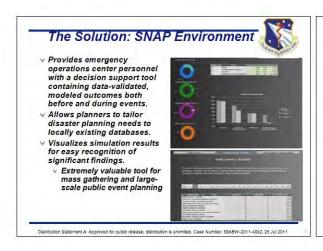
- V SNAP is an environment to facilitate the analysis of the emergency response to a man-made or natural disaster.
 - √ Identify at-risk functional needs populations
 - v Neonatal patients/new births
 - ∨ Dialysis patients
 - √ Oxygen-dependent patients
 - ∨ Mental health patients ∨ Medically dependent elderly
 - Support resource decisions.
 - Personnel
 - ∨ Equipment
 - ∨ Consumables
 - ∨ Transportation or evacuation

 - Provide relevant data earlier in a disaster to enable planning and expedited response.

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SNAP Research & Development To validate the capabilities of SNAP, a research and development project was conducted to: Identify and validate a simulation tool capable of modeling the human behaviors of victims and responders during an emergency Assess the availability of detailed infrastructure data regarding population, medical facilities, and transportation resources

Research Activities



- ∨ Conduct research to determine viability of using SNAP as:
 - ∨ Real-time decision support
 - ∨ Planning tool
 - ∨ Exercise tool
- environment by:
 - ∨ Identifying renewable accurate data sources for
 - → Determining value and appropriate level of complexity of data outputs

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Real-Time Decision Support



- While SNAP can be used as a real-time decision support tool, the current limitation on SNAP is the lack of integrated real-time data sources.
 - Currently behavioral models represent human behavior, first responder actions, and facility utilization.
 - ∨ As live data sources become available, they can replace the behavioral models to provide real-time data enabling integration into command and control (C2) platforms.
- Real-time capability is viable through periodic updates of data sources to support real-time planning during a
 - Update model with current information as it becomes available and rerun model to obtain planning information for decision makers (e.g., represent a hospital collapse).

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Incident Planning Tool



- Provides Emergency Operations Center managers with data-validated, modeled outcomes.
- Allows planners to tailor disaster planning needs to locally existing databases.
- Visualizes simulation results for easy recognition of significant findings.
- Extremely valuable tool for mass gathering and large-scale public ever planning
 Enables the identification of break
- - Enables the identification of bre points within the emergency response system.

 Allows community planners to predict high-urgency resource requests within geographical context.



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Exercise Tool



- ∨ Extremely viable tool for use in exercise planning and training for disaster exercises and events
 - ∨ Generates injects for more realistic scenario exercises.
 - ♥ Generates holistic scenarios with integration between disparate entities.
 - v Serves as command and control module for exercise to determine when activities should be concluded and kicked-off during exercise execution.
 - ∨ Allows for management of virtual and constructive resources within a live exercise.
 - Can recreate exact scenario to reinforce training activities
 - ✓ Is capable of integration into live, virtual, and constructive training activities.

Data Viability

- The SNAP environment is composed of a large number of data sets required to obtain the appropriate fidelity; data sets represent:
 Functional need populations

 - Infrastructure

 - w Medical (i.e., hospitals, dialysis centers)
 - · Civic (i.e., public works, shelters, etc.)
- v Personnel reson
- Renewable data sets are required to simplify maintenance and expandability of the data.
 - Epidemiological research found significant pools of renewable data sets viable to support the SNAP environment.
 - V Functional needs patients for the entire country with the exception of oxygen dependents
 - ∨ Medical infrastructure on state-by-state basis (variable formats)
 - ∨ Civic infrastructure on state-by-state basis (variable formats)

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Data Viability

- v The inconsistency between state data sets does provide challenges in integrating the solutions into the SNAP environment.

 - ∨ Inconsistent data formats and data values
 - V General cause is a lack of national standards in recording and reporting key data elements of interest to disaster and emergency first responders
 - Challenges overcome through the use of XML and extraction, transformation, and load (ETL) procedures
- Other elements of fidelity within the data (i.e., increase in birth rates during a disaster) have been enabled as editable fields in the user interface to allow for updates as necessary.

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Summary



- V Currently, SNAP is best used as a planning and exercise tool for evaluating impacts of disasters on resources and functional needs populations.
 - Realistic and accurate representations of exercise injects
 - Serves as C2 capability for training activities
 - Performs break point analysis of key system infrastructure and
- SNAP is capable of serving as a decision support tool for first responders.
- Improved integration to real-time databases would dramatically enhance real-time capabilities
- Existing data are sufficient to support the SNAP environment; however, standardization in the reporting of data at the state level would greatly enhance the usability of data.

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Fidelity



- Functionality of model is based on behavioral models.
 - How people actually behave during a disaster, so it is accurately represented in the simulation
- □ Examples:
 - Disease and prophylactic models

Disease state tracking of population Prophylactic models

- Medicine efficacy and effect on population
- Epidemiological models
- Logistics models

Medicine distribution logistics modeling

Medicine consumption

- Distribution center medicine stock depletion and replenishment
 Communication between centers

Additional Features

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Fidelity: An Example





During disasters, there is an increase in birth rate due to stress placed on mothers, creating a higher level of premature births.

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SNAP Inputs



- ∨ Two types of input:
- ∨ Specific entity data
 - v Population units (any geographic area were data are available)
 - v Medical facilities (nursing, hospitals, dialysis centers)
 - v Resources such as fire, rescue, public works, and buses
 - - ∨ Disaster mechanism and damage likelihood control
 - ∨ Medical data
 - · Patient timelines
 - · Initial conditions at medical facilities
 - ∀Parameters to control tactics, techniques, and procedures

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Control Your Simulation



- User has substantial control to modify default values critical to simulation outcome.
 - ∨ Assets and timeline of "external" responders

 - ∨ Medical need timeline for each patient type
 - ▼ Treatment times
 - ∀ Initial conditions (facility fullness, emergency rates)
 - ∀ Evacuation parameters (transportation needs)
 - ∨ Shift duration for fire/rescue resources
 - ∨ Power restoration timeline
 - ∨ Average transport speed

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Modeling Overview



- ✓ Medical Facilities
- → Capacity to accept new patients
- ∨ Treatment of current patients
- ∨ Fire/Ambulance Resources
- ∨ Response to emergency
- ∨ Transport patients, if
- applicable, to medical facility

∨ Patients

calls

 Many are self-moving and search out facilities to fill their specific medical needs

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Study Matrix



- Using a study matrix, users can generate and execute studies to determine breaking points for resources.
- → Patient fatalities and treatment needs as a function of size and scope of disaster
 → Impact of nominal speeds

 - ∨ Communication delays
 - → Power restoration rate ∨ Loss of specific facilities or resources
- Number of re-routes as a function of initial capacity of medical facilities
- ∨ Transportation or shelter resources required
- ∨ Likelihood of medical facility capacity issues
- ∀ Sensitivity of damage likelihood

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You Won't Get There From Here Without Getting Them Here--AFMS Diabetes Care Quality Measurement

Ms Brooke Asbury, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Air Force Medical Support Agency

Initial work by the Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) Applied Clinical Epidemiology (ACE) team quantified the AFMS diabetic "enrolled but not seen" population to be 13% of the overall diabetic population. HEDIS® scores for the "not seen" population, defined here as diabetics having no MTF outpatient encounters in one year, are much lower than scores for those seeking MTF care. To further characterize diabetics "not seen," ACE examined enrollment status, MTF characteristics, referral histories, and encounter/medication histories using AFMS clinical informatics data.

Seventy-five percent of diabetics "not seen" had TRICARE Plus or other health insurance vs. thirty-six percent of "seen" diabetics. Seventy percent of "not seen" diabetics had two or more billed network outpatient encounters for diabetes or had at least one diabetic network encounter plus medication(s). Similar proportions of those "seen" and "not seen" had emergency department visits, inpatient stays, and diabetes medication(s). Among those "not seen," few referrals to the network (<2%) existed, and fewer MTF teleconsults were found vs. were found for diabetics "seen."

Diabetics "not seen" obviously have proportionally higher utilization of and access to non-MTF care compared to "seen" diabetics based on enrollment status, low volume of referrals to network, and the high percentage having network bills. Most are obtaining diabetes care, though the quality of care received in the network is unclear. Across MTFs, HEDIS® scores trend upward as percentages of "not seen" and TRICARE Plus diabetics trend downward. Systematic efforts targeted to diabetics "not seen" are necessary to positively impact AFMS HEDIS® scores.

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

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AFMS Diabetes Care Quality



Brooke L. Asbury, MPH AFMSA/SG6H 02 August 2011 Version 1



Acknowledgements

- Diabetes Strategy Working Group Subgroup D participants
 - Ms. Carol Hewson, AFMOA (Facilitator)
 - Col Lisa Schmidt, AFMOA
 - Lt Col Kenneth Wilson, AFMOA
 - Ms. Lois Wingate, 59th MDOS/SGO5E
- Applied Clinical Epidemiology (ACE) team members
 - Col James Neville, AFMOA
 - Ms. Susan Chao, AFMSA/SG6H
 - Dr. Celan Alo, AFMSA/SG6H
- Referral data pull: Mr. Tino Moreno, AFMSA/SG6H

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Why we measure quality

- It is required by law
 - Section 723(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, Public Law 106-65
- From the Department of Defense Health Care Quality Report to Congress, 2010:
 - "The MHS is committed to being patient centered and providing quality health care." (p. 4)
 - "On and off the battlefield, in times of peace and war, the MHS's goal is to ensure that the highest standard of care is delivered." (p. 1)
 - "...to enhance the quality of care provided at MTFs...payments for quality of clinical care are based on performance on HEDIS® and ORYX® measures." (p. xi)

*HEDIS®: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set®

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How we measure and report quality

- Air Force Medical Support Agency (AFMSA/SG6H) produces selected clinical quality measures for DoD
- Measures are refreshed monthly on MHS Population Health Portal (MHSPHP)
- Action lists are provided for population health management
- Measures and lists are produced using HEDIS® methodologies
 - Include TRICARE Prime and Plus enrollees to Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs)
 - Use Administrative Specification only
 - Include several diabetes care measures
- DoD uses the National Committee for Quality Assurance's (NCQA) Commercial HMO benchmarks for comparison



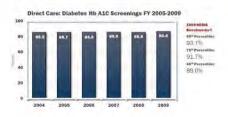
Diabetes care quality measures

- Diabetics are identified through encounters and medications
- Lists are further refined using HEDIS® exclusion criteria
- Percentages of diabetics screened and "in control" are presented
 - Four measures for Hemoglobin A1C (HbA1c) screening/control
 - HbA1c screening in past year
 - HbA1c <= 9%, HbA1c <8%, HbA1c <7% (diabetics without selected comorbidities)
 - Two measures for Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) screening/control
 - LDL screening in past year
 - LDL control (<100 mg/dL)

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Current performance-HbA1c Screening (Direct Care)

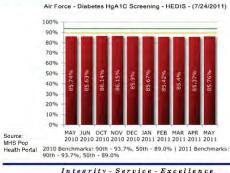


Source: DoD Health Care Quality Report to Congress, 2010

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Current performance— HbA1c Screening (USAF)



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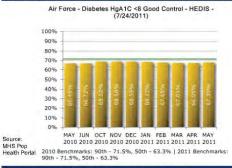


Current performance— HbA1c <= 9% (USAF)





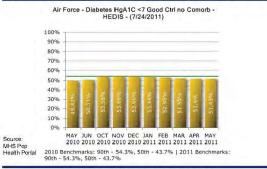
Current performance— HbA1c < 8% (USAF)



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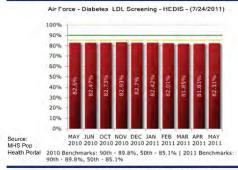
Current performance— HbA1c < 7% (USAF)



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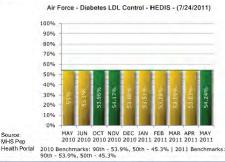
Current performance— LDL Screening (USAF)



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Current performance— LDL < 100 mg/dL (USAF)





Why are we not meeting targets?

- USAF is not reaching 50th percentile for screening measures
- Performing somewhat better on control measures
- Possible reasons for less than optimal performance
 - Appropriate care is not being delivered at recommended intervals by MTF providers
 - Diabetics are not compliant with diabetes care plan
 - DoD does not use Hybrid Specification for HEDIS® measures (i.e., no medical record review)
 - Administrative healthcare data for selected diabetics is not making it into DoD repositories



Taking a closer look

- Air Force Medical Operations Agency (AFMOA) Applied Clinical Epidemiology (ACE)* team was created in 2010
 - Has medical oversight and direction of AFMOA
 - Has analytical expertise and informatics resources of AFMSA
- Issue of diabetes care quality met ACE investigative criteria
 - Important to leaders
 - Measurable
 - Data regarding diabetes care are obtainable
 - Presumably can be impacted by patient and provider actions
- Initial analysis stratified HbA1c and LDL outcomes for March 2010 AF MTF-enrolled diabetics by past year's visit histories

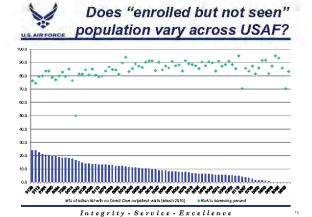
*In summer 2011, ACE was renamed "AF Clinical Decision Support" (AF CDS)

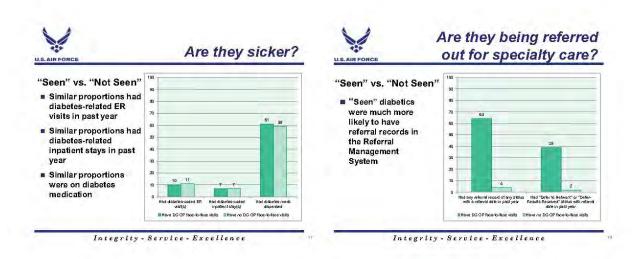
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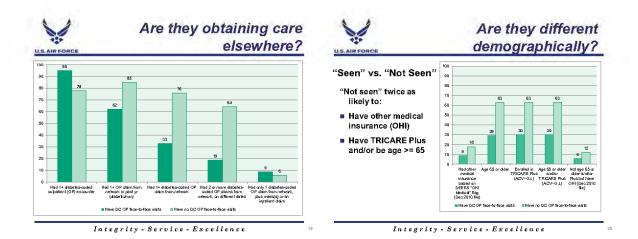
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Encounter histories shed some light...











What's different about Plus?

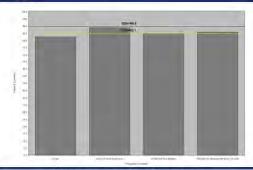
- TRICARE Plus vs. TRICARE Prime
 - TRICARE Plus
 - Not a health plan
 - An "enrollment option" for Standard enrollees in order to receive same access standards as TRICARE Prime
 - Plus enrollees are assigned a Primary Care Manager (PCM)
 - Mainly beneficiaries age 65 and over
 - Access to MTF specialty care is not guaranteed
 - MTF not required to offer Plus

From TRICARE.mil website: http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/SpecialPrograms/Plus

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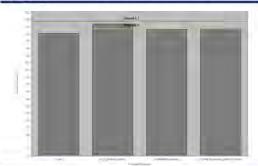
Impact-LDL screening



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Impact—HbA1c screening



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What can be done?

- Acknowledge the impact of the "not seen" group on quality
 - Continue to provide care as usual
 - Enter outside data into medical record when available
- Bring all diabetics in for a visit with PCM each year and draw labs
- Monitor proportion "not seen" and their outcomes at Patient-Centered Medical Home MTFs to see if PCMH makes a difference
- Internally adjust by MTF proportion of "enrolled but not seen"
- Calculate lower "achievable" benchmarks
- Remove TRICARE Plus/OHI from denominators/numerators
- · Politely ask the "not seen" to disenroll from MTF (?) if they are not seeking direct care



Remaining challenges

- Complex policy issue for both DoD and MTF leadership
 - Difficult to determine how closely measures reflect actual clinical quality and how much importance to place on them
 - MTFs are resourced based on enrollment
- AFMSA/SG6H undergoing first HEDIS® compliance audit
- Still no requirement for network lab results to enter DoD repositories
- Difficult to make blanket decisions about "enrolled but not seen" population, as it is a somewhat heterogeneous group of enrollees



Conclusion

- "Enrolled but not seen" diabetics will continue to prevent AFMS from reaching targets for diabetes care quality measures unless changes are made at multiple levels
 - Programs that use quality measures downstream of MHSPHP, like pay-for-performance initiatives, are also impacted
 - Policy changes most effective if enacted at DoD level
- Even after "not seen" were removed from March 2010 diabetes care HEDIS[®] measures, HbA1c screening remained under 90th percentile compared to Commercial HMOs
 - Still work to do among enrollees that visit direct care
 - USAF rates have been flat for years
- In the meantime, MTFs can use MHSPHP to assist with patient identification, disease management and quality assessment

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Contact Info

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A Simulation-Based Program to Improve Non-technical Skills during Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation CPT Albert Bonafacio, USAR, Patient Safety Center of Inquiry, Durham (NC) VAMC

Introduction: Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the United States. Code response training has traditionally focused on improving individual responders' technical skills and knowledge base. However, the impact of code response team performance, blending interpersonal and cognitive skills ("non-technical skills"), is increasingly recognized as critical for success in these scenarios. Since these skills are rarely evaluated, we developed a program for training and evaluating non-technical skills in code scenarios.

Methods: A high-fidelity, simulation-based program to improve non-technical skills among in-hospital code responders was implemented at a tertiary VA Medical Center. The Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Team (CRT) program, comprised of three components (education, program evaluation, and quality improvement), was introduced to rotating departmental house staff over one year. Participants were oriented to code roles and responsibilities. Six times/month, 8-minute simulated arrest scenarios were conducted, followed by debriefing emphasizing communication/teamwork. Simulated code scenarios were videotaped and reviewed to evaluate CRT performance with respect to non-technical skills.

Results: Simulated code exercises were significantly improved with regard to task performance, communication, and organization, which has translated to more efficient "real-world" codes. Numerous parallel processes relevant to CRT performance (code cart organization, modified acquisition/delivery of laboratory samples, code documentation) have been improved and applied to actual clinical events.

Conclusions: Non-technical skills are essential to successful resuscitation efforts. The CRT program used high-fidelity simulation to enhance and maintain non-technical skills among in-hospital cardiac arrest responders. Comparison of pre- and post-implementation in-hospital cardiac arrest mortality data will be evaluated to further assess program effectiveness

[No Presentation Slides Follow]

Utilization of a Prescreening Instrument for the Selection of Special Duty Personnel

Dr. Joe Wood, III, 711 HPW/USAFSAM-FEC WPAFB OH

Selecting the highest caliber personnel for Air Force special duty assignment is crucial for reducing training attrition, increasing retention, and improving operations critical to national security mission readiness and completion. The procedures for assessment and selection of special duty personnel can be a time-consuming and expensive process. However, utilizing an empirically validated prescreening instrument can be one of the more cost-effective methods of refining the applicant pool prior to an in-person assessment and selection (A&S), thus avoiding the costs associated with travel, lodging, and lost time on the job for the applicant in addition to reducing the resources needed by staff at the A&S.

This study evaluated the usefulness of an empirically validated "select out" web-based prescreening instrument assessing medical, psychological, and interpersonal aspects of functioning. Out of the 1100+ potential applicants who completed the prescreen survey between 2005 and 2009, approximately 52% were identified as having concerning information affecting their fitness and suitability for a high-demand, high-risk special duty career field. In total, 78% of those flagged were eliminated from consideration after additional review by unit leadership. These eliminations are estimated to have provided savings of more than \$200,000 per year. Additionally, the use of the instrument has significantly improved (a) the quality of the pool of applicants invited to attend A&S and (b) our understanding of the prerequisites needed to successfully adapt to the training and operational rigors of a special duty assignment.







Overview



Utilization of a Prescreening Instrument for the Selection of Special Duty Personnel



∨ History of assessment & selection (A&S)

- ∨ Description of special duty program
- ∨ Characteristics of screening instrument
- ∨ Benefits/cost-savings of prescreen

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History of A&S





History of A&S



y World War I

- ✓ Army Alpha & Beta tests
 - Screened 1-2 million soldiers

 - ✓ Army Alpha & Beta tests
- ▼ The most prominent industry of Minneapolis is:
 - A. Flour B. Packing
 - c. Automobiles
 - D. Brewing
- It is better to fight than run because:

 - A. Cowards are shot B. It is more honorable C. If you run you may get shot in the back

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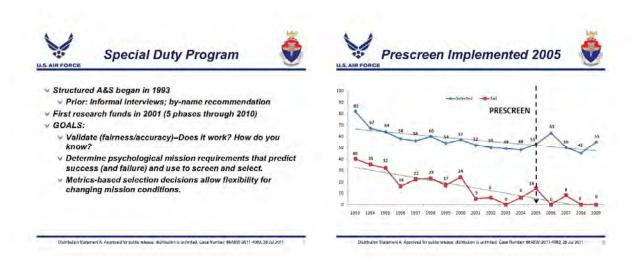
∨ Office of Strategic Services (OSS)

- ∨ Precursor to the CIA
- ∨ Screened for intelligence and training
- ∨ No testing for emotional/social attributes
- → Problems with field agents having nervous breakdowns



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Summary





Questions?



¥ Prescreen Benefits

- ∨ Empirically validated
- ∨ Consistent with research
- ∨ Cost savings

∨ Applications

- ∨ Use in other A&S programs
- Use in selection of high-risk operational personnel (i.e., remotely piloted aircraft operators)

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Newly dedicated USAFSAM facility

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Benefits of Operational Testing and Why it's Important

Maj Charles Morris & Maj James Weinstein, AF Medical Evaluation Support Activity

Educate AFMS personnel on the importance of Operational Testing of medical equipment and systems (i.e. UTCs).

The Air Force Medical Evaluation Support Activity is charged with conducting Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) of medical and IM/IT equipment, and systems by the Air Force Surgeon General. AFMESA is the AF's premier medical operational test activity. AFMESA testing expertise has drawn the attention of other DoD components, and government agencies. This briefing will explain how AFMESA conducts OT&E, why it is necessary, how it differs from developmental testing and current trends in DoD acquisition that are driving changes to test processes. The presentation will conclude with a review of recent test programs highlighting the breadth of testing environments, scope of testing, and our numerous test customers.

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

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Operational Testing in Medical Acquisition



Maj Charles Morris AFMSA / SG5T



Agenda

- · Definition of Test / What is Test
- · Where Test fits into Acquisitions
- Difference between Developmental Testing and Operational Testing
- · AFMESA:
 - o Mission/Org
 - o AFMESA Advantage
 - o Authority
 - o Current AFMESA Customers
- · AFMESA Operational Testing Support
- · Upcoming / Current Activities
- · Bottom Line

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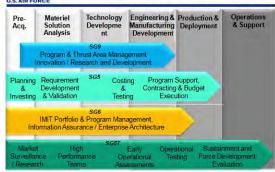


Testing Defined

- · Definition of Testing
 - Testing is the process of examining and operating a system or systems with the intent of finding problems
- DOD and Service Instructions state that operational testing will test a product for effectiveness, suitability, and survivability
 - The actual system elements of what fits into each of these metrics are application and system dependent
 - The test methods used to test each of these metrics are also application and system dependent

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Testing – Where We Fit in the Acquisitions Framework for Modernization





DT (PMO) vs. OT (AFMESA)

Developmental Testing	Operational Testing
Controlled by Program Manager	Controlled by Independent Tester
One - One Test	One, Two, or Many Tests
Controlled Environment	Realistic Operational Scenario
Trained, Experienced Operators	Users Recently Trained on Equipment
Precise Performance Objectives and	Performance Measurement of Operational
Threshold Measurement	Effectiveness and Suitability
Testto Specification	Test to Requirements
Development Test Article	Production Ready Product

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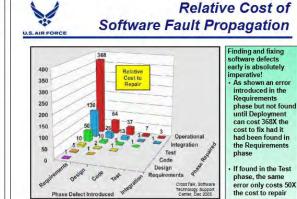
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Report of the Defense Science Board Task Force on DT&E

- Findings
 - IOT&E failure rate (50%) suggest deficiencies in DT&E processes
 - o Suitability failures are increasing
- Recommendations
- Integrate RAM in system development, as a contractual requirement
- Improve gov't involvement & oversight in DT access to test data
- o Address RAM at OTRR
- o Integrated DT/OT to share resources and data
- o Perform detailed risk assessment with COTS products
- Recent DOT&E memorandum on RAM stresses similar issues
 Improved RAM decreases Life Cycle Costs and reduces demand on logistics systems

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Site Overview

- Only Dedicated Medical Operational Testing (OT) Organization in the AFMS
- · Stood up 2001 per AF/SG
- · Fully functional EMEDS +10
- · 31 Personnel
- · Key Staff
 - o Chief Maj James Weinstein
- o DO Mr. Jim Sylvester
- Superintendent SMSgt Jason Read
- GSU Operation
- o Fort Detrick, MD: Medical Systems, Equipment, UTCs
- o Port San Antonio, TX: IM/IT Systems

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AFMESA / AFMISTB

- · Two DoD-Unique Sites
 - o Ft Detrick Test Site
 - Established in 2002
 - 14 Acres, 44,000 ft² Test Pad
 - EMEDS +10 / Patient Staging UTC
 - Biomedical Equipment Testing Facility
 Unique Personnel Mix
 - o Medical Information Systems Test Bed, Port San Antonio
 - Established in 2005
 - DIACAP Certificate in Late June
 - · OT w/o Borders, Secured Dedicated VPN
 - TATRC CDE Capability in 2012
 - · Able to Test Systems Before Going Live



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Current AFMESA Customers



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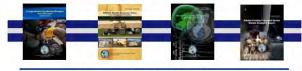
AFMESA Tests Throughout the AF and DoD Acquisition Process

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Market Research--Early OT Involvement

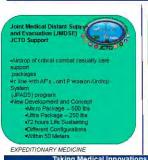
- Collect and Analyze Information about Capabilities within the Market to Satisfy Customer Requirements and Needs
- Two Main Activities
 - Market Surveillance (Practices, Trends, Technology Development)
 - Quick Look, Strategic View
 - Market Investigation (In-Depth Research, Requires a Team Approach)
 - In-depth Look, Tactical View



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Operational Testing: AFSOC Support



Muti-Lingual Interface Device
-Language and Dialect
-Dos'/ Don'ts for patient cut lure
-Patient inputs symptoms / history

EXPEDITIONARY MEDICINE

CASEVAC Electrical Power Domand

Man-portable allernate power
sources
-To support forward combat to
hospital/transport

EXPEDITIONARY MEDICINE



Bottom Line

- Unique Personnel Mix and Medical Experiences
 - o Easier to Make Testers Than Clinicians
- · Independent and Rapid
- · Test Early and Often
- Focus on Reliability, Availability, Maintainability, Sustainability, and <u>Life Cycle Management</u>
 - Supporting sustainability and maintainability (better products at lower cost)---the Return on Investment (ROI) for engaging test
- The Key for a Successful Transition from Testing to Field is Training and Technology Adoption

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Message From the Boss

AFMESA provides the Air Force Medical Service, DoD, and our Joint partners with world class operational testing and evaluation capabilities. This critical asset is a force enabler and a powerful risk management tool. Test is the conscience of acquisition — the final arbiter of truth — did we build the right thing for our warfighters?

-Brig Gen James Carroll, AFMSA/CC





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Operational Testing – "The Right Stuff"



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Questions



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